

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM9.50	ACTION			Ward:All
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Support for the Toronto Area Interfaith Council's Bid for Toronto to host the 2019 Parliament of the World's Religions - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Raymond Cho

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Raymond Cho, recommends that:

1. City Council declare its support and endorsement for the Toronto Area Interfaith Council's bid to secure Toronto as the next host city for the Parliament of the World's Religions in 2019.

Summary

The Parliament of the World's Religions is an international interfaith summit first held in Chicago in 1893, and since 1993 has been hosted in major cities around the world every four years. The gathering, which attracts around 10,000 attendees, was "created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world."

The Toronto Area Interfaith Council, which sends a delegation representing Toronto to each summit, will make a bid to host the 2019 Parliament of the World's Religions. The Toronto Area Interfaith Council is an organization of representatives of faith communities and groups in the Toronto area. The Toronto Area Interfaith Council is "dedicated to affirming the importance of ethics, spirituality, and faith in daily life and the promotion of understanding, harmony, respect, and acceptance among the faith communities of the Toronto area."

The City of Toronto is home to myriad diverse religions, and we proudly count this as "our strength." Toronto is already a world leader in interfaith best practices, as demonstrated by independently organized groups such as TAIC and the City-sponsored Faith in the City conference, which provides a forum for Toronto's faith communities to come together to solve shared social problems. The Parliament of World Religions has similar goals, but with a global reach. The opportunity to host this world-class conference would provide a platform for Toronto to share its practices, and for theological thought leaders and socially-minded communities to share new ideas and practices with our City.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM9.50