



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

**Councillor** Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

February 24, 2015

To: Parks & Environment Committee

Re: Extending Outdoor Skating Season in the City of Toronto

Dear Chair & Members,

Last year, the Parks and Environment Committee adopted motion PE26.5 "Allowing Flexibility in the Operating Budget for Municipal Skating Rinks", which requested:

- 1) The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to consider including "cold weather" contingency funds, including the use of corporate and private sector partners, into the 2015 Operating Budget to extend the outdoor skating and skiing season when weather permits

Pleasure skating and shinny are well-loved winter sports, and in an exceptionally cold winter such as this Torontonians expect their City to ensure the skating season continues with the weather. Instead, Torontonians have seen a last minute scramble to keep rinks open, announced sponsorships, cancelled sponsorships, then new sponsorships announced rather than a well-planned extension of the season as anticipated by the motion above.

The City of Toronto needs a firm policy to ensure that rinks remain accessible to our communities throughout the cold season in a reasonable, dependable manner. Groups who permit for shinny and other activities need advance notice of the length of the season in order to organize themselves accordingly. Therefore, I request that City Council direct:

- 1) The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to include cold weather contingency funds into the 2016 Operating Budget to extend the outdoor skating season when weather permits; and
- 2) The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to the May 19, 2015 meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee on the status of this request

Sincerely,

Councillor Paula Fletcher  
Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth

