



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Earthquake Disaster Relief Assistance for Ecuador

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| Date: | May 18, 2016 |
| To: | Executive Committee |
| From: | City Manager |
| Wards: | All |
| Reference Number: | P:2016\Cluster B\OEM\EX16003 |

SUMMARY

On April 16, 2016, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake shook Ecuador and was followed by a series of aftershocks. In response, City Council on May 3, 2016 adopted Member Motion 18.43 which requested that staff report back to the May 24, 2016 Executive Committee on options to provide Ecuador immediate and long term assistance by the City of Toronto in keeping with the City's International Disaster Relief Policy, including technical staff expertise and supporting community efforts to raise funds and to assist in relief efforts. This report responds to this request.

The motion also requested that the Government of Canada increase significantly the \$2 million set aside for earthquake relief in Ecuador, and that City Council consider any formal requests from the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to assist in providing disaster relief assistance that may be deemed urgent. To date, the City has not received any formal requests.

The City's response to international disasters is guided by the City's International Disaster Relief Policy which provides the framework for the City's response to communities in need following a disaster.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. Executive Committee receive this report for information.

Financial Impact

This report will have no financial impact. The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On May 3, 2016, Council adopted Member Motion 18.43, *Earthquake Disaster Relief Assistance for Ecuador*, moved by Councillor Palacio and Mayor Tory. The motion requested that the City Manager report to the May 24, 2016 Executive Committee on options to provide Ecuador immediate and long term assistance by the City of Toronto in keeping with the City of Toronto's International Disaster Relief Policy, including technical staff expertise and supporting community efforts to raise funds and to assist in relief efforts for families.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.MM18.43>

In 2006, Council adopted an International Disaster Relief Policy to guide the City's response to communities in need following a disaster.

www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/pof7rpt/cl016.pdf

In 2005, City Council adopted the International Alliance Program and authorized the adoption of Quito, Ecuador as a Partnership City.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2005/agendas/council/cc051205/edpcl002b.pdf>

In 2002, City Council adopted an International Policy Framework to guide the City's consideration for requests for technical partnerships and twinning.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2002/agendas/council/cc020521/pof8rpt/cl009.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2016, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake shook Ecuador and was followed by a series of aftershocks. The Government of Canada took action to provide support to Ecuador and the affected population including humanitarian response through a \$2 million funding commitment. The funding is supporting immediate efforts to help a number of aid partners on the ground to provide shelter, clean water, health, sanitation and other basic services to the affected Ecuadorian population. With the support of the Federal government, the Canadian Red Cross also deployed a field hospital on April 24, 2016 to support relief efforts.

In addition, the Federal Government also deployed the Canadian Disaster Assessment Team (CDAT) on April 19, 2016 in response to a request from the Ecuadorian Government. CDAT's mandate is to undertake a full and rapid assessment of the situation on the ground, as well as the humanitarian needs of those most affected. Thereafter, it will make recommendations on an appropriate Canadian response, in addition to the

humanitarian assistance funding already committed. The assessment team includes six experts from Global Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defence.

The Ontario government, for its part, has contributed \$500,000 to the Canadian Red Cross to help its relief efforts, which include emergency supplies for families, pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, search and rescue, and support for evacuation and telecommunications throughout the country.

COMMENTS

City of Toronto's International Disaster Relief Policy

In 2006, Council adopted an International Disaster Relief Policy ("The Policy") to guide the City's response to communities in need following a disaster, and to ensure that the city approaches disaster relief with consistency, transparency and the proper coordination. The Policy also recognizes that the jurisdiction for providing international disaster relief resides primarily with the federal and provincial governments, not municipalities. The Policy is attached as Appendix A.

The Policy specifically:

- provides principles to guide the City's response
- outlines roles and responsibilities for City Divisions
- provides criteria for determining the response
- recognizes that the jurisdiction for providing international disaster relief resides primarily with the Federal and Provincial governments, not municipalities
- recognizes the financial limitations of the City

In addition, the Policy outlines actions the City will not undertake in response to international disasters due to the challenges they present in terms of cost, effectiveness and logistics. The City will not:

- self-deploy staff to an affected region;
- directly donate funds to an affected area or agency;
- collect funds on behalf of an agencies; and
- donate excess vehicles or equipment.

City Response under Council's International Disaster Relief Policy

The Policy outlines how the City will respond to disaster relief both in the immediate and long-term and work through established networks and coordinated disaster relief efforts.

Immediate Response

Related to immediate first response, the City may respond to international disasters, including participating in immediate first response, when requested by the Province of Ontario. The City will not self-deploy staff as this often causes more challenges on the

ground in the disaster stricken area. The City has been requested in the past to assist by sending staff from fire, ambulance and police services to assist with rescues, or in the case with the 2004 Tsunami deploy staff to assist with solid waste disposal issues and water sanitation.

The City's Office of Emergency Management contacted the Provincial Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) to determine whether the City's assistance is requested in immediate emergency response in Ecuador. The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management has confirmed that there are no requests for immediate response assistance to Toronto or other municipalities in Ontario.

The Policy also enables the City to assist community organizations by communicating any local fundraising efforts and providing community organizations space (subject to availability) at no charge. Any costs incurred in addition to the provision of space are the responsibility of the organization hosting the event.

Long Term Capacity Building

For long-term capacity building projects, the Policy provides for Toronto to consider deploying staff in cooperation with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The City engages in rebuilding efforts only when the FCM is involved as it is recognized by the United Nations for its approach to international development and its extensive network of project officers, which ensure the safety of City staff.

City staff contacted the FCM to determine whether there will be an opportunity to participate in long term capacity building activities. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has confirmed that it is not currently undertaking disaster relief or longer term capacity building actions in response to the recent Ecuadorian earthquake. The FCM International section is following up with Global Affairs Canada for more details on the Government of Canada's response and to offer assistance and will then advise, if and how, the City can support FCM's efforts.

City Action in Response to the Ecuadorian Earthquake

As noted in this report, the City has not received any formal request to participate in immediate disaster relief efforts by the Province of Ontario or join any FCM longer term capacity building efforts.

The City's Office of Emergency Management will continue to have an open dialogue with other orders of government on this issue and respond within the parameters of Council's International Disaster Relief Policy.

In the meantime, Toronto will continue to support community efforts, including those of the Ecuadorian community in Toronto, to raise funds by using City channels to communicate any local fundraising effort, and by providing City space at no charge (subject to availability) for local fundraising events.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Wallace, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

International Disaster Relief Policy
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/committees/pof/pof060918/it032a.pdf>