

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM18.43	ACTION			Ward:All
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Earthquake Disaster Relief Assistance for Ecuador - by Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Mayor John Tory

** 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 Cesar Palacio, seconded by Mayor John Tory, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Government of Canada to increase significantly the \$2 million set aside for earthquake relief in Ecuador, specifically that the Federal Government be requested to match the money raised by Ecuadorian-Hispanic Canadians private donations to relief efforts.
2. City Council consider any formal request from the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to assist in providing disaster relief assistance that may be deemed urgent, as it relates to search and rescue, clean-up and long-term rebuilding efforts.
3. City Council forward this Motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and request that FCM take appropriate action to recognize the affected areas of Ecuador for technical Partnership support for longer term capacity building, efforts and coordination.
4. City Council request the City Manager to consider additional options for immediate and long term assistance by the City of Toronto, in keeping with the City of Toronto's International Disaster Relief Policy, including the possibility of the provision of technical expertise from City divisions, and report back to the next Executive Committee meeting of May 24, 2016 on appropriate assistance and response from the City of Toronto, including:
 - a. providing appropriate technical expertise and guidance from Toronto Water, for disaster relief assistance to the areas of need within the affected region of the country; and
 - b. given the desperate need of water, shelter, medical care, sanitation, day cares and elementary schools that have been destroyed in the most affected areas, and given the proud history of Toronto of coming to the aid of people around the world in times of disaster, on ways the City of Toronto can support community efforts to raise funds and

to assist in relief efforts for families, as well as pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, search and rescue and support for evacuation and telecommunications.

Summary

Ecuadorian-Canadians and residents of Toronto are united in grief and shock at the magnitude caused by the massive 7.8 earthquake that struck off Ecuador's Pacific coast, 170 kilometres northwest of the nation's capital, Quito, on Saturday, April 16, 2016. This catastrophe resulted in hundreds of human fatalities, thousands injured, tens of thousands homeless –leaving behind massive death and destruction along the coastal cities of Manta, Portoviejo, and Pedernales; resulting in more than 7,000 buildings being flattened, entire villages destroyed and roads and bridges structurally compromised.

According to UNICEF and the Canadian Red Cross, the death toll from the devastating earthquake has risen to over 655 casualties, with over 27,700 injured, and the total financial implications exceeding \$3 billion in economic losses. In response to the earthquake, a state of emergency was declared by the Government of Ecuador. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this unfortunate disaster who have lost their homes, and those who are still looking for or have lost loved ones in the wreckage.

Furthermore, the City of Toronto and the City of Quito has a Friendship and Cooperation Agreement between the two cities - recognizing the strong links between both Metropolises: that celebrates the important contribution the Ecuadorian community has made to enrich Toronto's development and further enhance and facilitate the relationship for both cities mutual benefit of residents and businesses. Within this Friendship Agreement, "article 3" notes that the parties will identify an entity or group in each City for the purpose of coordinating, promoting, implementing, and monitoring of projects and initiatives arising out of this agreement. Under "article 6", the parties will engage the exchange of experience and technical expertise through reciprocal meetings in areas of mutual interest such as business development, construction, public transportation, environment protection, science, and culture.

This Motion is intended to express Toronto's support for the rebuilding efforts underway, and to offer assistance, in conformance, with Toronto's International Disaster Relief Policy.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM18.43

Friendship and Cooperation Agreement between City of Toronto (Canada) and City of Quito (Ecuador)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-92890.pdf>

Communications (City Council)

(May 3, 2016) Multiple Communications from various organizations submitted by Councillor Cesar Palacio, Ward 17 Davenport (MM.New.MM18.43.1)