City Council

Notice of Motion

MM20.15	ACTION			Ward:All
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Continuity and Change: Preserving the Past for the Future - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Norman Kelly

* Notice of this Motion has been given.

* This Motion is subject to referral to the Planning and Growth Management Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Norman Kelly, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning (Heritage Preservation Services) and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture (Museums and Heritage Services) to prepare a joint report addressing the following issues:

a. defining a preliminary plan to accommodate the acceptance of City of Toronto-based archaeological collections by determining the volume of material and records currently held by archaeological consultants, estimating the growth of archaeological collections over the next 10 years and identifying the space and staffing requirements for the storage and curation of those records and artifacts; and

b. reporting on consultations with Real Estate Services to determine the availability of any City-owned facilities which could accommodate these collections, and what measures would be required to adapt those facilities for storage purposes.

2. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning (Heritage Preservation Services) and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture (Museums and Heritage Services) to report back on the matters above and their associated operating and capital budget impacts to the Planning and Growth Management Committee by June, 2017.

Summary

The City of Toronto requires that archaeological assessments be completed for soil disturbance activities taking place within our jurisdiction in accordance with our Archaeological Management Plan and related provincial policy. However, once archaeological sites and resources are discovered, these collections become the responsibility of the independent consulting archaeologist to store, manage and hold in trust on behalf of the people of Ontario. The storage conditions are not regulated by the Province and include professional offices,

storage lockers, garages and private basements.

Official Plan Policy 3.1.5.41 states that the City will provide a repository to take possession of all archaeological artifacts and records of archaeological assessment activities undertaken in the City for the purpose of maintenance, research and exhibition. However the City's existing artifact collection repositories, under the control and operation of Economic Development and Culture, are at full capacity and cannot accept any additional archaeological materials.

The City of Toronto should act on implementing this policy recommendation to steward collections obtained through the assessment process. This initiative will ensure that City collections are protected, properly managed, accessible to researchers, and ultimately interpreted to residents and visitors alike.

This Motion will address the preliminary work required by staff to determine the size and nature of Toronto-based archaeological collections held in trust by independent consultants and estimate requirements for storage space and staffing (relating to artifact curation and management, including anticipated budget impacts.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM20.15