



CITY COUNCIL REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION

City of Toronto Cemetery Needs Analysis

Date:	July 25, 2016
To:	Planning and Growth Management Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All Wards

City Council Decision

City Council on July 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2016, referred Motion MM20.11 to the Planning and Growth Management Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Justin J. Di Ciano, seconded by Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to undertake a Cemetery Needs Analysis and develop a Policy Framework that provides an overview of the remaining interment capacity in Toronto cemeteries and to establish the projected need for future cemetery demand.
2. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to report back to City Council through the Planning and Growth Management Committee, with recommended criteria for the siting and development of expanded or new cemetery land uses, and with a strategy to meet this demand, such report to be prepared in consultation with the Province and the surrounding municipalities.
3. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to undertake a comprehensive public consultation with stakeholders including faith-based groups concerned about this matter.

Summary

The Region of York recently completed an extensive Cemetery Needs Analysis and Policy Framework. The report included consultation with industry, Municipal, Provincial, and religious stakeholders. Although the City of Toronto was not formally consulted, there were a number of conclusions and assumptions contained in the report regarding Toronto residents in terms of cemetery capacity, demand, and planning.

It is concerning that there may be no burial space in the City of Toronto in the next decade. This will cause economic and social hardship for families as they may have to find burial space outside of the Greater Toronto Area to accommodate the final wishes of loved ones. By working with the Province and neighbouring municipalities, the City of Toronto can help lead and manage demand to plan for affordable future interment space for Toronto residents.

This Motion asks the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to undertake a similar Cemetery Needs Analysis and Policy Framework to provide an overview of the remaining interment capacity available in Toronto cemeteries and to establish the projected need for future cemetery demand. A comprehensive public consultation with stakeholders including faith based groups concerned about this matter would also be included.