

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM9.6	ACTION			Ward: All
-------	--------	--	--	-----------

**Revisiting the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the City of Toronto and the District of Jaffna - by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, seconded by Mayor John Tory**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, seconded by Mayor John Tory, recommends that:

1. City Council revive the existing Memorandum of Understanding of March 19, 2017 between the City of Toronto and the District of Jaffna.
2. City Council resume its commitment to the collaborative advancement of the four main pillars of Good Governance, Education, Library Systems, and Economic Development, as outlined in the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding, and hold another workshop to identify actions for each pillar.
3. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to investigate the potential for an urban planner from the City of Toronto to participate in an exchange exercise with the District of Jaffna; this includes amending the original March 2017 Memorandum of Understanding, as necessary, to include the District of Jaffna as a signatory and reporting back on feasibility and next steps.
4. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to investigate the potential for a Tamil scholar from Sri Lanka to participate in an exchange exercise with Tamil Studies at the University of Toronto at Scarborough and report back on feasibility and next steps.

**Summary**

In March of 2017, Mayor John Tory and a delegation of 32 business leaders travelled to India and Sri Lanka as part of a mission to promote the media, technology, finance, and education sectors, as well as to reinforce Toronto as a prosperous hub for these areas. The mission, planned with Economic Development and Culture, and spearheaded by former Members of Council, sought to establish stronger partnerships and alliances between Toronto and cities overseas.

The implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding signed on March 19, 2017 between the City of Toronto and the District of Jaffna was intended to facilitate new investments and business, educational, and cultural exchanges. The Memorandum of Understanding was meant to bolster activities under four distinct pillars: Good Governance, Education, Library Systems, and Economic Development.

Following the return to Toronto, the Toronto-Jaffna Partnership Summit was held on September 30, 2017 in order to discuss an “Implementation Phase” for the Memorandum of Understanding. This Motion seeks to reengage the process and resume this project with clear deliverables. Furthermore, past discussion of an exchange of urban planners between Jaffna and Toronto should be finalized, planned, and eventually executed.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM9.6