

**City Council****Motion without Notice**

MM9.64	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Providing Support to Northern Ontario Communities Evacuations - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson**

*\* 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**

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommends that:

1. In respect of the current request to assist in being a "host community", in the event that there is an evacuation due to northern forest fires, and all similar future requests in respect of emergency evacuations, and subject to receiving a commitment that City expenses will be reimbursed, City Council authorize the City Manager, and the Mayor if required, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, to:

1. negotiate with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada, and implement, the City's hosting arrangements, if any, including the services and facilities the City may provide as part of such a hosting arrangement;

2. enter into and execute all necessary agreements including any amendments with the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, and any other required parties, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, to provide the hosting arrangement, including funding agreements to secure intergovernmental funding opportunities to recover the City hosting-related costs; and

3. receive and allocate any funds obtained for services provided as a result of hosting.

**Summary**

A letter from the Ontario Deputy Solicitor General, dated July 12, 2019, addressed to the City Manager requested the City of Toronto to act as a "host community" for Northern Ontario residents displaced due to a number of forest fires. The City of Toronto is generally requested to act as a host community annually and has received the request to act as the same seven times in the last five years.

This most recent request is a result of emergency evacuations required because of the forest fires in Northwestern Ontario; the scale of which (approximately 16,000 people) is presenting

the Province with significant challenges. The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management and Ministry of the Solicitor General, in partnership with other Provincial Ministries and Government of Canada Departments, coordinates planning for and evacuation of First Nations communities when they are at risk due to fires, floods or other emergencies.

In discussions with Solicitor General Sylvia Jones, Mayor Tory has agreed that the City of Toronto would assist in any way possible. We understand that at this time, the province is considering possibly using college dormitories in the City of Toronto to house some evacuees.

In order to host evacuees, formal funding and cost recovery agreements between Indigenous Services Canada and the City of Toronto need to be negotiated to: determine and authorize the provision of services, ensure full cost recovery and mitigate other potential liability issues identified by the City; authority is also required for City officials to enter into these agreements.

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

Member Motion MM9.64