

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM34.44	ACTION			Ward: All
---------	--------	--	--	-----------

Authority to Enter Into and Execute Agreements with Other Orders of Government for COVID-19 Business and Culture Recovery Initiatives - 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. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to apply for Federal and Provincial funding that supports COVID-19 recovery initiatives for business and culture, and report to City Council on successful applications.
2. City Council authorize the City Manager, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, to receive funds and to negotiate, enter into and execute any agreements, including any amendments thereto, with the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario and/or agencies of the federal and provincial governments to support COVID-19 recovery initiatives for business and culture, for successful City applications, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
3. City Council request the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to inform City Council, through Budget Committee, and as part of the 2022 Budget process, of any changes required to the 2022 Budget as a result of successful funding.

Summary

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Toronto has provided a vital lifeline to local businesses and cultural organizations. The City, through the

Economic Development and Culture Division, rapidly pivoted in spring 2020 to deliver new strategic programs that helped to mitigate the immediate impacts of the pandemic on the local economy, and position business and culture to thrive as Toronto moves closer to reopening. These initiatives have been informed by Council-approved strategies including the report of the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild, and Building Back Stronger, the report of the City's Economic and Culture Recovery Advisory Group.

As the vaccination program continues to gain momentum, and we prepare to reopen the economy, the City's support for business and culture is as important as ever. The scale and complexity of the challenges facing local business and culture will require a collaborative and nimble effort among the various orders of government and the private sector. Accordingly, the City is currently in discussions with Federal and Provincial Governments about the potential for partnerships that can support COVID-19 recovery for business and culture in Toronto. If confirmed, these new partnerships with other orders of government would support Council priorities including relief for small business; targeted assistance for diverse communities; recovery of main streets across the City; high-growth sector initiatives; strengthening the arts and cultural industries; and tourism recovery programs, among others. It is anticipated that these opportunities are time-sensitive and will require the City to enter into and execute required agreements with other governments in the coming weeks and months.

Recognizing the importance and urgency of these new partnerships, this Motion seeks authority from City Council for the City Manager to enter into, execute, and amend agreements with the Federal and Provincial Governments for funding related to COVID-19 recovery initiatives for business and culture. Where applicable, staff will separately seek approval for budget adjustments through the regular variance reports to Budget Committee to reflect any new funding received.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM34.44