

## **Canada Post Labour Disruption and Councillor Newsletter Entitlement**

**Date:** December 10, 2024

**To:** City Council

**From:** City Clerk

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to authorize that any unspent 2024 Newsletter Entitlement for each Councillor as of December 31, 2024 be available for Councillors to spend in 2025 where they have been impacted by Canada Post labour disruption.

Under the Members of Council Operations Policy (MCOP), Councillors are provided each year a Newsletter Entitlement that provides an entitlement specific to each ward for production and distribution of communications to all households within the ward.

As a result of the nation-wide strike by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) that began on Friday, November 15, 2024, mail service by Canada Post has stopped. This has prevented Councillors from providing end of year hard copy communications to their constituents.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The City Clerk recommends that:

1. City Council authorize Councillors, who have been impacted by the Canada Post labour disruption that has prevented Councillors from sending out their end of year 2024 communication, to spend their remaining 2024 Newsletter Entitlement, as at December 31, 2024 for their respective Wards, to produce and distribute communications in 2025.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial impacts to the 2025 City Council Operating Budget Submission from the adoption of this report's recommendation.

This recommendation is a one-time amendment to the budget allocation of Newsletter Entitlement in 2025 for the cost of postage or delivery of communications to households. Any expenses incurred in 2025 up to the unspent remaining 2024 Newsletter Entitlement balance which is estimated at \$250,000 will be within the 2025 City Council Operating Budget Submission

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on July 11, 12 and 13, 2012, City Council adopted EX21.9 "Policy Changes to Facilitate Councillor Office Operations" and approved that "Each Councillor be entitled to an amount equivalent to the cost of postage or delivery by other means of one newsletter to all households within the ward, based on the 2011 census information, and at a rate not to exceed the current Canada Post standard admail rate, paid for from the Council General Expense Budget."

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX21.9>

At its meeting on December 4, 5 and 13, 2018, City Council adopted, as amended, CC1.1 "Recalibrating City Council's Governance System for 26 Members" amending the newsletter entitlement to include both postage and production.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CC1.1>

At its meeting on December 13, 14 and 15, 2023, City Council adopted, as amended, EX10.12 "Updates to the Constituency Services and Office Budget Policy" which amongst other things includes the newsletter entitlement available to Councillors.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EX10.12>

## **COMMENTS**

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The MCOP provides an entitlement equivalent to the production and distribution of communications to all households. The entitlement is based on census information and at a rate not to exceed the current Canada Post standard Neighbourhood Mail rate and a typical per-unit production cost. The entitlement was based on the ability to send out one newsletter to all households, however over time Councillors have been able to find ways to send out smaller multiple communications to maximize the allocation. Over the last few years, the entitlement has generally been 80 to 90% spent.

Due to the Canada Post labour disruption, many Councillors have been unable to send out their end of year communications and use the balance of their newsletter entitlement. As of this report, the entitlement is approximately 46% spent. We also know that not all Councillors use their entitlement as they have chosen other methods to reach their constituents.

Given the Canada Post labour disruption, the City Clerk is recommending that the unused newsletter entitlement as of December 31, 2024, be available to the respective

Member that were impacted by the Canada Post labour disruption in 2025 to be able to make up for the missing communication in 2024.

## **CONTACT**

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Mike Pacholok, Deputy City Clerk, Member Services and Program Support, PH: 416-338-9019, email: [mike.pacholok@toronto.ca](mailto:mike.pacholok@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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John D. Elvidge  
City Clerk

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Newsletter account -