

FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto: Status of Federal and Provincial Funding

Date: May 20, 2025
To: City Council
From: Executive Director, FWC26 Toronto Secretariat
Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report responds to [EX23.17](#), introduced at Executive Committee on May 13, 2025, through the FIFA World Cup 2026 Subcommittee, requesting the Executive Director, FWC26 Toronto Secretariat, to report directly to City Council on the status of intergovernmental funding related to hosting the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, FWC26 Toronto Secretariat recommends that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

As has been previously reported to City Council and detailed in Table 1 below, the estimated costs to host the FWC26 in Toronto totals \$380 million, which includes all operations, safety and security, and capital upgrades to ensure the City meets all FIFA requirements. Of the \$380 million required to deliver the games, \$201.3 million is being offset by provincial and federal funding, leaving the City responsible for the remaining \$178.6 million (or 47% of total costs).

Table 1: Estimated FWC26 Funding Sources (\$000s)

Funding Source	Amount (\$000s)
Intergovernmental Funding	
Federal Grant	104,340
Provincial Grant	97,000
Total Intergovernmental Funding	201,340
City Funding	
Reserve Fund	63,001
Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT)	56,600
Commercial Rights Sales and Rental Fees	34,620
Value Of In-Kind Operating Services	2,643
Other Funding	21,796
Total City Funding	178,660
Total FWC26 Funding	380,000

Additional detail can be found in the 2025 Operating Budget and 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/8efb-2025-Public-Book-FWC26-V1.pdf>

The estimated remaining funding requirement is included in "Other Funding" in the table above. The FWC26 Toronto Secretariat will rely on revenues derived from:

- Donations secured by the FIFA World Cup 2026 Champions Table for the Soccer for All Legacy Program.
- Profit sharing from FWC26 Toronto merchandise sales.
- Percentage of FWC26 music royalties provided to Host Cities.
- New commercial sales opportunities specific to hospitality sales at the Stadium.
- Opportunities specific to FIFA Fan Festival (e.g. premium ticketed events, vendor rental fees, etc.).

Federal Funding

The Government of Canada has committed \$104.34 million to assist Toronto in hosting the World Cup matches. This funding will cover both operational and capital expenses, including infrastructure enhancements and event logistics.

In March 2025, the funding was secured through a contribution agreement signed between the Government of Canada and the City of Toronto. All payment schedules and reporting metrics have been agreed to and are in progress.

All federal services related to hosting the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be absorbed by the federal government as part of regular business and excluded from the contribution agreement.

Provincial Funding

The City of Toronto (FWC26 Toronto Secretariat) and the Province of Ontario (Ministry of Sport) are in negotiations to solidify and execute the contribution agreement between the two governments, formalizing the \$97 million contribution for the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The Province of Ontario's funding was intended to provide cash to the City to offset tournament expenses, including capital infrastructure and legacy investments, and inclusive of any provincial services, like policing, transportation, and health care, required to meet the City of Toronto's contractual obligations with FIFA

While negotiations continue to be productive, provincial service costs are still substantially higher than budgeted, and in some cases completely unbudgeted.

At present, captured below in Table 2, are the provincial service costs still in negotiation representing the highest level of exposure and cost to the City, drawing down on the \$97 million contribution while increasing the City's funding gap:

Table 2: Estimated Provincial Service Costs, as of May 14, 2025

Ministry	Service Description	Estimated Cost
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	Victim Services Toronto: Emergency Mobilization Plan and Children at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) Unit	\$418,480.00
Ministry of Health	Hospitals: EMS/Paramedic, Public Health, Community Care, Surge Capacity	\$15,000,000.00
Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs	Supporting facilitation of events for dignitaries, consulate officials, etc. as required	\$24,999.00
Ministry of Sport	Project Management/Staffing Costs	\$2,457,400.00
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming/ Destination Ontario	FIFA Fan Festival execution costs	\$500,000.00
Ministry of Transportation (Metrolinx, MTO)	Increased public transit capacity, free public transit for volunteers, lost or unrealized revenue, beautification of stations, production costs, security and emergency management related to provincial highways, third party security at	\$6,645,039.00

	Exhibition GO, Marketing and communication.	
Ministry of the Solicitor General/Ontario Provincial Police	Ontario Provincial Police	\$14,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$39,045,918.00

Table 2 does not include any conditional or event-dependent (per incident) costs related to the Office of the Fire Marshall, Office of the Chief Coroner and Ontario Forensic Pathology Service, Centre of Forensic Sciences, and Correctional Services that may be incurred if emergency incidents were to occur during the hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as contained in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

On May 13, 2025, Executive Committee adopted EX23.17, "Status update of funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments for FIFA World Cup 2026", requesting the FWC26 Toronto Secretariat to report directly to City Council on the status of intergovernmental funding. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX23.17>

On March 26, 2025, City Council adopted EX21.15, "FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto: Economic Benefits of Hosting, Soccer for All Legacy Fund and Community Benefits Plan Updates", which increased the 2025 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$10.7 million to advance the Host City Commercial Hospitality Program as a key revenue generation strategy with funds to be replenished following the sale of hospitality packages, authority to accept donations as part of a private sector fundraising program for the SFA Legacy Fund, negotiate a naming rights agreement for the new "Soccer Hub" at Centennial Park, directed staff to prioritize Canadian suppliers and increase purchasing opportunities with Indigenous, Black and diverse suppliers and social enterprises, and to request additional funds from provincial and federal governments, in recognition of the additional revenue tariffs will generate for those governments. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX21.15>

On July 24, 2024, City Council adopted EX16.21, "Governance, Community Benefits Plan, Legacy and Program Advisory Framework, FIFA Fan Festival", which provided a general overview of planning, granted authority to enter in agreements with third party groups to receive funds, and accelerate RapidTO transit priorities, all associated with supporting the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Toronto. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EX16.21>

At its meeting on July 5, 2024, the FIFA World Cup 2026 Subcommittee considered Item FWC1.3 which directed the Executive Director, FIFA World Cup Hosting 2026 to conduct a line-by-line review of the City of Toronto's FIFA World Cup 2026 budget, in consultation with the FIFA Subcommittee Chair, City Divisions and Agencies engaged in delivering the games, and other relevant stakeholders, to identify opportunities to reduce the impact of the games on the City's property tax base and report back to the Subcommittee on the results of this review by October 2024.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.FWC1.1>

COMMENTS

As part of providing the status of intergovernmental funding related to hosting the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Toronto, it's important to draw connection between government investments and fiscal benefits for Canada and Ontario as a result of hosting such a large global event.

As previously reported to City Council, FIFA released the findings of its first ever pre-tournament FIFA World Cup™ Economic Impact Assessment. Conducted by Deloitte Canada the assessment includes the estimated economic output for Canada ahead of the FIFA World Cup 26™, set to take place in 16 host cities across Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

The findings, which cover the period from June 2023 to August 2026, estimate that preparing for and hosting the FIFA World Cup 26 will contribute up to \$3.8 billion in positive economic output for Canada as a host nation. The data also estimates positive contributions of \$2 billion to Canadian gross domestic product (GDP), \$1.3 billion to Canadian labour income and \$700 million to government revenue, as well as the creation and preservation of 24,100 jobs across the country over the period under analysis.

Additional findings estimate that preparing for and hosting the FIFA World Cup 26 could contribute \$1.3 billion in positive economic output in the province of Ontario, with Toronto set to host six tournament matches. The report estimates positive contributions of \$700 million to the GDP of the province of Ontario, \$460 million to labour income and \$100 million to government revenue, as well as the creation and preservation of more than 8,700 jobs over the period under analysis (June 2023 to August 2026).

Hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 is expected to generate substantial tax revenues for both the federal and provincial governments in Canada, including Ontario. While specific tax benefits are not detailed in the available information, the overall economic impact suggests significant fiscal advantages.

CONCLUSION

The City will continue to work collaboratively with other orders of government, reporting and fulfilling deliverables with the federal government as part of our contribution

agreement commitments. FWC26 Toronto Secretariat will stay diligent in continuing negotiations with the province to reduce uncertainties around scope and lowering ministry service costs back to the City. It is staff's intention to maintain as much of the \$97 million contribution in cash to offset the City's hosting responsibilities while maintaining the approved budget envelop of \$380 million approved by City Council.

CONTACT

Sharon Bollenbach, Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026, Toronto Secretariat
Email: Sharon.Bollenbach@toronto.ca; Tel: 416-338-8779

SIGNATURE

Sharon Bollenbach
Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026, Toronto Secretariat