

Advancing Truth, Reconciliation and Justice: Nominal License Agreement with Aboriginal Legal Services Inc. for the Giiwedin Anang Council at 1125 Danforth Avenue

Date: June 27, 2025

To: General Government Committee

From: Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management and General Manager, Children's Services

Wards: 14 – Toronto-Danforth

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain City Council authority for the City (the "Licensor") to enter into a nominal 10-year license agreement (the "License") with Aboriginal Legal Services Inc. (the "Licensee") with respect to a part of the property located at 1125 Danforth Avenue (the "Licensed Area") for the purposes of providing the Licensee with space to continue operating the Giiwedin Anang Council, an Indigenous family dispute resolution program (the "Program").

The Licensed Area is a portion of the Danforth Early Learning and Child Care Centre, a City-owned and operated child care centre. The Program operates during the off-hours of the child care centre and leverages an otherwise unoccupied space that suits the Licensee's programming needs. The Licensee operated the Program for one-year as a pilot in the Licensed Area with minimal to no impacts to the operations of the child care centre. The pilot program supported numerous Indigenous families and was well-received by the child care centre and the broader Indigenous community.

The License Agreement allows the Licensee to continue to provide critical culturally relevant services to the Indigenous community, and aligns with the City's 2022-2032 Reconciliation Action Plan to advance truth, justice and reconciliation by supporting Indigenous-led programs and services that promote healthy child and family development.

The Program has served the Indigenous community since 2008, and is made up of staff from Aboriginal Legal Services Inc. and Indigenous community volunteers. The purpose of the Program is to allow parents, children, extended family, child welfare authorities, and others to come together to develop a plan that meet the needs of the child, often through Talking Circles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management and General Manager, Children's Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, on behalf of the City, to enter into a nominal license agreement (the "License") with Aboriginal Legal Services Inc., as licensee, for a term of 10 years in respect of the a part of the property located at 1125 Danforth Avenue, more particularly described in Appendix B hereto, substantially on the terms and conditions set out in Appendix A, and on such other or amended terms and conditions that are acceptable to the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
2. City Council authorize each of the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, and the Director, Real Estate Services, Corporate Real Estate Management severally to execute the License, and any related documents on behalf of the City.
3. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, their successors and designates, to administer and manage the License, including the provision of any consents, approvals, waivers, notices (including notices of termination) provided that the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management may, at any time, refer consideration of such matters to City Council for direction and determination.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The License is for nominal consideration. It is estimated that foregone revenue to the City for this nominal License is estimated at \$144,855 annually, totaling \$1,448,550 for the 10-year term. The Licensee has secured funding to operate the Program through the United Way of Greater Toronto.

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

DECISION HISTORY

On December 19, 2023, by way of Delegated Authority Form 2023-308, authority was granted to the City, as Licensors, to enter into a license agreement with Aboriginal Legal Services Inc. with respect to the property municipally known as 1125 Danforth Avenue, Toronto for the purpose permitting the licensee to operate the Giiwedini Anang dispute resolution program for one year as a pilot program .

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/8e35-2023-3081125-Danforth-Av.pdf>

On April 6, 2022, City Council adopted item 2022.EX31.1 "Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2032" and directed the City Manager to ensure that City staff work towards the City's implementation of the Strategic Actions contained within the Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2032.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX31.1>

COMMENTS

Background

The Giiwedín Anang Council, an Indigenous family dispute resolution program, has served the Indigenous community since 2008, and is made up of staff from Aboriginal Legal Services Inc. and Indigenous community volunteers. The purpose of the Program is to allow parents, children, extended family, child welfare authorities, and others to come together to develop a plan that meet the needs of Indigenous children and families, often through Talking Circles.

The Licensee operated the Program for one-year as a pilot at a part of the property located at 1125 Danforth Avenue which operates as the Danforth Early Learning and Child Care Centre, a City-owned and operated child care centre. The Licensee utilized the space during the off-hours of the child care centre, and in a way that met their programming needs. The Licensee maintained open communication and collaborated with the child care centre during the pilot period, leading to no operational concerns or issues. The pilot program supported numerous Indigenous families and was well-received by the broader Indigenous community. Information sessions were held by the Licensee to build awareness of the Program with the Indigenous community.

10-year Nominal License Agreement

Following the one-year pilot program, staff recommend the City enter into a nominal 10-year license agreement with the Licensee with respect to the Licensed Area. The License Agreement allows the Licensee to continue providing critical culturally relevant services to the Indigenous community.

The Licensed Area will continue to be the same portion of the Danforth Early Learning and Child Care Centre utilized during the pilot program. The Program will also continue to be setup and operated when the space is not being utilized by the child care centre (6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekends). See Appendix A for details on the major terms and conditions of the License Agreement and Appendix B for a floor plan of the Licensed Area.

The License Agreement also aligns with the City's 2022-2032 Reconciliation Action Plan to advance truth, justice and reconciliation by supporting Indigenous-led programs and services that promote healthy child and family development.

CONTACT

Alison Folosea, Director, Transaction Services, Corporate Real Estate Management,
416-338-2998, Alison.Folosea@toronto.ca

Ann Pagnin, Program Manager, Asset Management, Children's Services, 416-392-4670,
Ann.Pagnin@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Patrick Matozzo
Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management

Shanley McNamee
General Manager, Children's Services

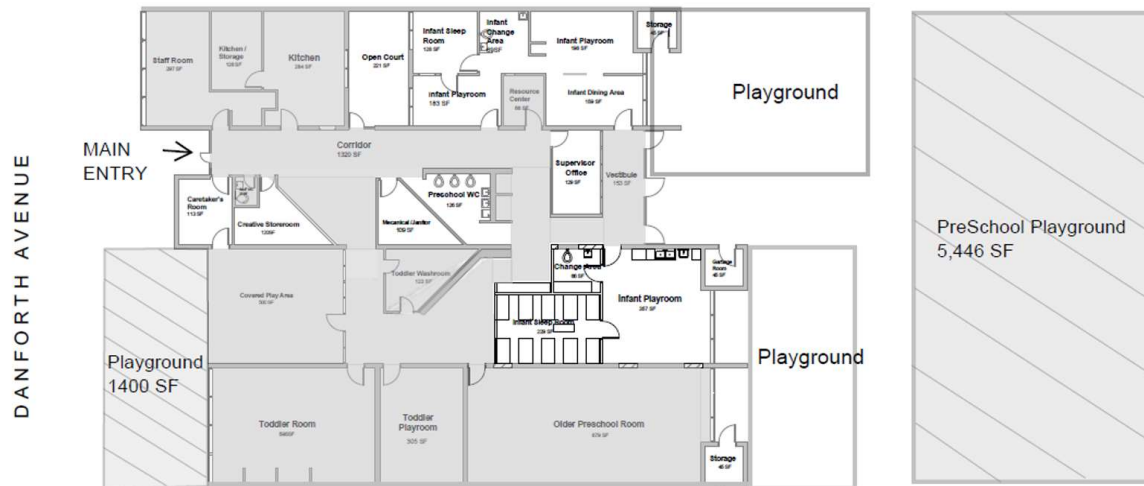
ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Major Terms and Conditions of License
Appendix B – Floor Plan of Licensed Area

Appendix A – Major Terms and Conditions of License

Property:	1125 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4J 1M5
Licensors:	City of Toronto (the "City")
Licensee:	Aboriginal Legal Services Inc.
Licensed Area:	The portion of the Property shaded in grey on the sketch attached as Appendix B.
Fee:	A nominal sum of \$2 per annum (\$20 in total for the ten-year term) which shall be deemed to have been paid on the Commencement Date of the License agreement and each anniversary thereof during the term, plus all applicable taxes.
No Representation:	The Licensee accepts the Licensed Area in its "as is" and "where is" condition, and acknowledges that the City makes no representation and gives no warranty with respect to the Licensed Area.
Commencement Date:	January 12, 2025.
Term:	10 years following the Commencement Date.
Early Termination:	The Licensee and Licensors shall each have the right to terminate the License upon giving at least 60 days written notice to the other party.
Licensee's Use:	The Aboriginal Legal Services, Giiwedini Anang Program, and for no other purpose.
Operating Costs:	The Licensee shall pay all costs and expenses related to the Licensee's Use, including but not limited to: operating costs; waste collection, disposal and recycling personnel costs; custodial costs; security access cards costs; and all taxes, rates, and assessments of whatsoever kind or description.
Rules and Regulations:	The Licensee shall observe and cause the Licensee's representatives to observe such reasonable rules and regulations as may be implemented by the City in relation to the Building and the Lands from time to time.

Appendix B – Floor Plan of Licensed Area



DANFORTH CHILD CARE CENTER
1125 Danforth Avenue Toronto ON