

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM29.9	ACTION			Ward: 5
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Working With MLSE Foundation to Explore Feasibility of Reimagining Weston Lions Arena - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Etobicoke York Community Council. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, in consultation with the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, to engage with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation, the Ward Councillor, stakeholders and local residents, to explore the feasibility of reimagining Weston Lions Arena to better deliver high-quality and accessible sport and recreation opportunities.

Summary

The Weston Lions Arena is a 75-year-old facility that is City-owned, and programmed and managed by the Weston Lions. The current agreement has been in place since 1983, automatically renewing annually.

Through preliminary discussions with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation, there is potential to explore the feasibility of investing in Weston Lions Arena as a potential MLSE Launchpad location. MLSE Foundation has significant experience delivering free, high quality, accessible recreation programming for children and youth experiencing barriers to participation.

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment LaunchPad located at 259 Jarvis Street is a purpose-built, 42,000-square-foot facility located in downtown Toronto that leverages sport to support positive youth development. Since 2017, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment LaunchPad has delivered free, evidence-informed programming that integrates physical activity, life skills, and academic support for children and youth experiencing barriers to participation. The model is informed by comparable City recreation and youth services and emphasizes measurable outcomes and strong community partnerships to improve the long-term well-being of participants. It is recognized in North America as one of the leading sport for development community initiatives.

This motion seeks to direct staff to engage directly with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation as well as local stakeholders to explore the feasibility of revitalizing and

reimagining the Weston Lions Arena to optimize recreation opportunities and community benefits in the next evolution of the facility.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion 29.9

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2025/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-254682.pdf>)