

## MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

### **Non-Competitive Contract with Surface Impression LTD for the Provision & Completion of a Digital Learning Resource Where the Water Met the Land for Economic Development & Culture**

Moved by: Councillor

Carroll

Bravo

Seconded by: Councillor

#### **SUMMARY:**

The digital learning resource *Where the Water Met the Land* is an immersive online experience under development for middle school children and educators. It focuses on how the land and water lines surrounding two of Toronto's key historic sites—Fort York National Historic Site and Spadina Museum—have evolved over time. The current Contract PO 6053339, awarded to Surface Impression LTD expired on June 30, 2024. The immersive online experience is now close to completion and can be soon made available through a new agreement at a cost reflecting remaining payments. The resource will positively impact educators and middle school students and is aligned with the City of Toronto reconciliation efforts and priorities.

The total amount of this request is \$31,225.25 net of all applicable taxes and charges (\$31,774.81 net of Harmonized Sales Tax recoveries). This contract will be funded by the federal government through the Digital Museums of Canada. Extensive engagement with Indigenous communities informed the development of the digital learning resource, and the Economic Development and Culture (EDC) Division is working with the Urban Indigenous Education Centre of the Toronto District School Board to promote it in schools.

Non-competitive procurements may be undertaken where both the proposed procurement and supplier can be justified in good faith based on an exception set out in Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 195, Procurement. This procurement will be proceeding under the exception related to compatibility with Surface Impression, and the City has determined in good faith that both the proposed procurement and the selected supplier, along with the terms and conditions of the contract are beneficial to the City (Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 195, Procurement, Section 7.1E).

City Council approval is required in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 195, Purchasing, where the current request exceeds the Chief Procurement Officer's authority of the cumulative five-year commitment limit for each vendor under Article 7, Section 195 - 7.3(D) of the Purchasing By-Law or exceeds the threshold of \$500,000 net of Harmonized Sales Tax allowed under staff authority as per the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 71, Financial Control, Section 71-11(A).

#### **Reason for Urgency:**

The agreement is required for the completion and timely provision of the *Where the Water Met the Land* digital learning resource. Delaying the agreement would affect its launch, negatively impacting educators and middle school students in having access to an education tool informed by Indigenous communities and reconciliation efforts.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to negotiate and execute a non-competitive agreement with Surface Impression (Canada) LTD, for the provision and completion of a Digital Learning Resource, *Where the Water Met the Land*, in a potential amount not to exceed \$31,225.25 net of all applicable taxes and charges (\$31,774.81 net of Harmonized Sales Tax recoveries) for the period of one (1) year, commencing on December 10, 2025 to December 10, 2026, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Date Nov 11, 2025