

Use of Nathan Phillips Square for Team Canada FanFest – February 6-8, 2026

Date: November 10, 2025
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: General Manager, Economic Development & Culture
Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York

SUMMARY

The City of Toronto provides opportunities to access Nathan Phillips Square for eligible events through a permitting process administered by the Economic Development and Culture Division.

The purpose of this report is to request exemptions from Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 636, "Public Squares", and former City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 237, "Nathan Phillips Square", for an event that is proposed to be held on Nathan Phillips Square on February 6-8, 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council grant permission to the Canadian Olympic Committee to operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and to serve alcohol contingent upon the following conditions:
 - Approval of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
 - Approval of the Medical Officer of Health
 - Compliance with the City of Toronto's Municipal Alcohol Policy
 - Receipt of all the necessary permits associated with the production of the event, i.e., building permits, noise by-law extension permit
2. City Council grant permission to the Canadian Olympic Committee to solicit donations in support of their organization.
3. City Council grant permission to the Canadian Olympic Committee to engage in sports demonstrations.

4. City Council grant permission to the Canadian Olympic Committee to use open flame as part of their event production. All permissions would be contingent upon each applicant securing an Open Air Burning permit under [Ontario Fire Code 2.4.4.4](#), from Toronto Fire Services.
5. City Council grant permission to the Canadian Olympic Committee to place objects in the reflecting pool.
6. City Council requires that the various events compensate the City of Toronto, through the Corporate Real Estate Management Division, for all the City of Toronto costs associated with an event above the standard staffing complement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no immediate or known future-year financial impacts resulting from the recommendations contained within this report.

The City will receive compensation from the event organizers for any costs incurred as a result of these events and the approval of requested exemptions to Chapter 636 and former City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 237 through the Corporate Real Estate Management Division.

Normal fees associated with permitting and staff cost recovery, as per Municipal Code [Chapter 441](#), charges will be applied as well.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer have reviewed this report and agree with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

On June 25-26, 2025, City Council adopted TE23.23, granting exemptions for the use of Nathan Phillips Square from October 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TE23.23>

City of Toronto Economic Development & Culture Division, Arts and Culture Services, Event Support Unit, has received applications from the following for the use of Nathan Phillips Square from October 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026

- Canadian Olympic Committee's "Team Canada FanFest"

COMMENTS

Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 636 "Public Squares" and former City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 237 "Nathan Phillips Square" prohibits the solicitation of donations, the sale of alcohol, placing objects in the reflecting pool, use of open flame and special effects pyrotechnics, amplification of sound outside of Nathan Phillips Square amplification schedule policy, "gated or ticketed" events and engagement in sports demonstrations without the approval of Council.

The event organizers are requesting permission to engage in these activities outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Dates for Events and Permission Requested

Date	Event	Organization	Requesting Permission
February 6-8	Team Canada FanFest	Canadian Olympic Committee	Solicit donations. Engage in sports demonstrations. Use of open flame as part of their event production. Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol. Place objects in the pool.

Next Steps

If the exemptions are approved by Council, the issuance of permits and exemptions for the event listed in this report will be conditional on submission of all required documentation and permissions by the event organizers to City staff for review and approval. These actions would be in compliance with all other related City policies, procedures, and criteria, and would follow regular business practices.

Staff will monitor on-site event operations to ensure event organizers' compliance with the exemptions granted in a manner that maintains and adheres to the required procedures and guidelines outlined as conditions in the executed permit agreement.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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