



May 4, 2026

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Re: Motion to Protect Canadian Digital Sovereignty–EC28.1 - Sidewalks to Skylines: A 10-Year Action Plan for Toronto's Economy (2025-2035)

Dear Economic and Community Development Committee,

I am grateful to Councillor Shelley Carroll for moving my motion to promote Canadian digital sovereignty on item EC28.1. This motion asks City Council to direct staff to explore how Toronto can actively support the development of Canadian-made software as open-source digital public infrastructure, aligned with the City's long-term economic strategy, while also urging the federal government to create a dedicated initiative to help scale such solutions nationwide.

At its core, the proposal recognizes that municipalities increasingly depend on large foreign technology vendors for critical digital systems, raising concerns around cost, digital sovereignty, vendor lock-in, and long-term resilience. By investing in homegrown, open-standard software that can be shared across public sector organizations, Toronto can help strengthen Canada's innovation ecosystem, keep public dollars circulating domestically, and build more transparent, adaptable, and secure digital tools. This approach not only supports local industry and talent, but also positions the City as a leader in shaping sustainable, interoperable digital infrastructure that better serves residents while reducing strategic dependence on external providers.

Motion amending EC28.1 - Sidewalks to Skylines: A 10-Year Action Plan for Toronto's Economy (2025-2035) - Update on Implementation:

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"Alone we can do so little. Together, we can do so much." - Helen Keller



1. City Council request the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the Chief Procurement Officer, Purchasing & Materials Management Division, and the Chief Technology Officer, Technology Services Division, to explore opportunities for the City of Toronto to support the development of Canadian software solutions for municipal use, through implementation of Sidewalks to Skylines: A 10-Year Action Plan for Toronto's Economy (2025–2035).
2. City Council request the Federal Government to consider creating a targeted federal initiative, to support the development and scaling of Canadian software solutions as digital public infrastructure based on open standards and under open-source licencing for widespread use by municipalities and other public sector organizations, with the objective of reducing reliance on major foreign technology vendors where appropriate.
3. City Council request the Federal Government to consider partnering with the City of Toronto to pilot these solutions during development, subject to applicable Chapter 195, Procurement Bylaw rules and trade agreement obligations.
4. City Council request the City Clerk to forward this motion to the Minister of Industry and the Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation.

Warm regards,

Councillor Lily Cheng
Toronto City Councillor
Ward 18, Willowdale

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