

## **Delegation of Authority for Licence Agreements to Facilitate the use of Published Sound Recordings in Recreation Facilities**

**Date:** May 19, 2026

**To:** General Government Committee

**From:** General Manager, Parks and Recreation

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report seeks authority for the General Manager of Parks and Recreation to enter into two agreements on behalf of the City with Re:Sound and Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada / Société Canadienne Des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Éditeurs De Musique (SOCAN), and/or their representing agent(s) as appointed, to license the use of published sound recordings (music) in recreation facilities and programs.

Re:Sound is the only organization authorized under federal copyright law to collect royalties for performers and music producers when their sound recordings are played in public or shared with the public by broadcasting or other telecommunications.

SOCAN is the only collective society in Canada that administers performance rights in musical works for composers, songwriters, and music publishers, including the works of its members and those represented through affiliated international organizations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Parks and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council delegate standing authority to the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to negotiate, enter into, and execute on behalf of the City license agreements with Re:Sound and Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada / Société Canadienne Des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Éditeurs De Musique (SOCAN), and/or their representing agent(s) as appointed, to allow for published sound recordings to be played in the City's recreation facilities, at tariffs established by Re:Sound and SOCAN (estimated to be approximately \$80,000 for 2026), on terms and conditions acceptable to the General Manager, Parks & Recreation and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The Division currently pays approximately \$80,000 annually in royalties under existing tariff requirements through the annual invoice and payment process. Entering into multi-year agreements with Re:Sound and SOCAN is not expected to result in a material change to these costs, with annual payments anticipated to remain at approximately \$80,000, subject to applicable tariff adjustments. Rather, the primary benefit of these agreements is administrative efficiency, rate certainty over the agreement term, and improved financial planning.

The cost of recorded sound tariffs is included as part of Parks and Recreation's annual operating budget and are estimated at \$80,000 for 2026.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact section

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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There are no prior decisions related to this matter.

## **COMMENTS**

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Parks and Recreation operates recreation facilities where published sound recordings (music) are played in public to support program activities such as dance programs, fitness classes, and leisure skating. The use of this content is subject to annual royalties.

Currently, the Division pays for these mandatory royalties through an annual invoice and payment requisition process under Schedule A. Parks and Recreation currently has authority to make payments for this purpose but it does not have the authority to enter into formal multi-year licensing agreements as required by Re:Sound and SOCAN.

Multi-year agreements will reduce annual administration for the validation and payment of these royalties, establish consistent rates for the duration of the agreement term and improves financial planning requirements related to music royalties.

Providing the General Manager of Parks and Recreation with delegated authority to sign these agreements between the City, Re:Sound and SOCAN will ensure that the appropriate licences are in place and that all required royalties are paid under Re:Sound Tariff 6.B (Use of Recorded Music to Accompany Fitness Activities) and applicable SOCAN tariffs, including Tariff 19 (Physical Exercise and Dance Instruction) and Tariff 7 (Skating Rinks).

This will allow continued compliance with federal copyright laws to compensate the music industry for the use of content including artists, composers, producers, and songwriters.

The scope of this agreement would be limited to Parks and Recreation assets and services and can be adjusted, as new assets and services are brought on-line.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Terry Ricketts  
General Manager, Parks and Recreation

