



NOTICE OF MOTION

Supporting the Realization of the Tamil Community Centre

Moved by: Mayor

Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Councillor

Neethan Shan

SUMMARY:

Toronto's Tamil community is nearing a historic moment. Thanks to relentless hard work, the dream of beginning construction on its community centre is fast becoming a reality. Once completed, the Tamil Community Centre will be a multi-purpose facility serving the Tamil community and the broader Morningside Heights and northeast Scarborough communities. The centre will include a gymnasium, indoor walking track, auditorium, library, museum and archival space, multipurpose programming rooms, outdoor sports facilities, and space for social, educational, cultural and mental health programming.

The TCC represents a generational opportunity to support Toronto's vibrant Tamil community, and Scarborough more broadly. It will be a key addition to the City's network of community and recreation spaces. The Centre has been designed not only as a home for Toronto's Tamil community, but also as a shared community asset. Through a Community Access Agreement with the City, the Centre will provide opportunities for residents of the surrounding neighbourhood, and across the city, to benefit from its spaces and programming.

Since its inception, the City has been a proud partner of the TCC. That partnership has included material support, such as approving a [long-term nominal lease for City-owned land](#) and [waiving planning application fees](#) to help facilitate development. While the City of Toronto contributed the land, the project has been made possible through strong collaboration between all three orders of government and the community. In [2021](#), the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario announced more than \$26 million in funding toward construction through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The project is at a critical juncture where further City support can help ensure its timely success. Scarborough Community Council unanimously endorsed the Tamil Community Centre's Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment (SC33.5). This motion seeks Council support for changes to the term of the TCC's lease and to authorize the waiver of its site plan application fees.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council authorize amending the ground lease between the City, as the Landlord, and the Tamil Community Centre, as the Tenant, for part of the south parcel of the City-owned property at 251 Staines Road (formerly addressed 311 Staines Road) originally dated February 15, 2022, and as amended on July 1, 2023 and July 1, 2024, to add a second extension option of ten years less one day on the same terms and conditions as the first extension option, including nominal basic rent, such that the total term inclusive of options of the ground lease is for a total of 49 years less a day, and on such other terms and conditions to be agreed between the Landlord and the Tenant, as may be approved by the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
2. City Council authorize the waiver of City development application fees for a Site Plan Control application set out in Schedule 13, Appendix C in Municipal Code Chapter 441 that would otherwise be payable by the Tamil Community Centre to the City for the property located at 251 Staines Road (formerly addressed 311 Staines Road).

July 29, 2026