



April 20, 2026

Subject: Letter of Support – MM40.9 Celebrating Cricket Day in Toronto

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of CIMA Canada, I am pleased to express our strong support for Motion MM40.9, brought forward by Councillor Neethan Shan and seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow.

Since 2005, CIMA Canada has partnered with the City of Toronto to advance youth cricket, beginning with the CIMA Mayor’s Trophy (CMT) as a one-day community event and expanding into schools through the CIMA Mayor’s School Cricket program. In 2020, CIMA founded the Ontario Schools Cricket Association (OSCA), which now continues and scales this work across Toronto and the Province of Ontario. We would also like to recognize Councillor Neethan Shan’s leadership, [including his 2017 Toronto City Council motion](#) supporting youth cricket initiatives and CIMA-led programming, and thank him for his continued support of CIMA’s work in growing the game across Toronto.

Over the years, these initiatives have engaged thousands of young people, using cricket as a vehicle to promote healthy active living, teamwork, and leadership development. This model has also received international recognition, including the International Cricket Council’s Global Cricket Promotional Award in 2006, recognizing the success of the partnership between the City of Toronto’s Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division and CIMA Canada in advancing community-based cricket development.

Toronto City Council has long recognized the importance of this work. [As early as 2008, Council formally supported the Cricket Across the Pond initiative](#)—building on the success of CMT and acknowledged the strong partnership between the City of Toronto, CIMA Canada, and corporate sponsors in delivering youth opportunities at no cost to the City. CMT continues today as a flagship city-wide community event, bringing together students, educators, community partners, and civic leaders from across Toronto’s diverse communities in a celebration of sport, culture, and inclusion. The 22nd annual event, scheduled for June 27, 2026 at Sunnybrook Park, reflects the continued strength and growth of the City of Toronto -CIMA Canada partnership.

Motion MM40.9 represents an important next step in building on this strong foundation. We recognize Councillor Neethan Shan for his longstanding leadership and advocacy in advancing youth cricket in Toronto. Proclaiming Celebrating Cricket Day and strengthening access to cricket facilities and programming will further support the continued growth of the sport and its contribution to inclusive, healthy communities across Toronto.

We commend Councillor Shan and Mayor Chow for their leadership and respectfully urge City Council to support this motion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ahil Ahilesan
Ahil Ahilesan CPA, CGMA
Chair, CIMA Canada