

**CITY OF TORONTO ACT**

**Recommendation**

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends:

That the following resolution be approved.

Whereas the City of Toronto has requested the Province of Ontario amend the City of Toronto Act;

Whereas the City of Toronto is requesting that the Province provide the City with more authority and autonomy to address local issues;

Whereas the City of Toronto is requesting greater authority with respect to generating revenues;

Whereas GTA municipalities have previously requested that the requirement for GTA municipalities to send locally collected tax dollars to assist the City of Toronto ("GTA Pooling") be discontinued;

Whereas the province has indicated that they will be introducing new legislation to address Toronto's concerns this fall;

Now therefore be it resolved:

That GTA Pooling be discontinued and Toronto be provided the necessary authority to address their funding issues within the City of Toronto;

That this resolution be circulated to Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, the Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon. Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance, MPP's within the GTA, municipalities within the GTA and the City of Toronto.

**Economic Impact**

Since the introduction of GTA pooling, up to and including 2005, York Region will have collected from local municipalities and forwarded \$654.4 million to the Province to fund Toronto Social Services. Of this amount \$194.7 million was collected within the City of Vaughan. In 2005 approximately \$82 million will be collected in York Region, \$25 million or 31.3% of this funding for GTA pooling is collected in the City of Vaughan.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the resolution is to bring forward the concerns regarding GTA Pooling and have those concerns addressed as part of the amendments to the City of Toronto Act.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

GTA Pooling has been a concern to municipalities in the GTA for a number of years and those concerns have been expressed to the Province. Toronto's issue is a lack of funding for issues being faced by the City.

Given the City of Toronto's request that the Province amend the City of Toronto Act with the objective of providing the City with more authority over local issues and a greater ability to generate revenue, it is appropriate that GTA Pooling cease and Toronto be given the ability to generate revenue within Toronto to provide the required funding.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This resolution is consistent with the objective of "ensuring short and long term financial stability".

**Conclusion**

GTA Pooling has been a concern for many years and it is appropriate that those concerns be addressed through the amendments to the City of Toronto Act which is designed to give Toronto more authority and accountability.

**Attachments**

None

**Report prepared by:**

Clayton D. Harris, CA  
Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Di Biase  
Mayor