

Toronto City Council's Executive Committee has requested the City Manager to seek the public's input on the establishment of a new casino in Toronto. The City Manager has engaged the firm DPRA to conduct the consultation with the public and stakeholders by the end of January 2013.

The consultation will gather input, including the public's views and opinions on a casino generally, on possible locations for a casino, and what the public would like Council to consider when making a decision on this matter.

The consultant will also analyze all public input and deliver a report on the consultation and its findings to the City Manager in February 2013. The City Manager will consider the findings of the public consultations in the development of his report to the Executive Committee on the matter of establishing a new casino in Toronto in March 2013.

Background Information

At the request of the Ontario Ministry of Finance, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) initiated a process in December 2010 to identify ways to expand and modernize gaming across the province. For any new casino developments, OLG plans to work with private sector partners to both develop the project and run operations.

In order for the Province to proceed with establishing a commercial casino, municipalities are required to obtain public input about the establishment of the proposed gaming site and to give the OLG, in writing, a description of the steps it took to do so and a summary of the public input it received. City Council must also pass a resolution regarding the establishment of a gaming site. OLG identified 29 zones in which it intends to offer a gaming venue. Two of the gaming zones (OLG gaming sites C1 and C2) include the City of Toronto.

The City is looking for input on three areas that might be possible locations for a new casino (Exhibition Place, the Port Lands and a downtown location), and one existing facility (Woodbine Racetrack).

City staff are assessing information on the potential revenues and costs associated with establishing a casino generally, and where possible in each location. Consideration is also being given to other potential issues such as social, health, employment, tourism, traffic, infrastructure and land use impacts.

A report from the City Manager, *Considering a New Casino in Toronto* was considered by the Executive Committee on November 5, 2012 along with a report from Ernst & Young, titled, "*Potential Commercial Casino in Toronto*".

The City engaged consultant Ernst & Young to study the potential impacts of a new casino located in Toronto including impacts on the City's revenues and the local Toronto economy, and review research studies and literature on the socioeconomic impact of casinos in other jurisdictions.

Additionally, the City's Medical Officer of Health, in collaboration with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, has prepared a report on the public health impacts of gambling and of expanded access to gaming venues. This report and the associated staff report was considered at the November 19, 2012 meeting of the City's Board of Health.

The Etobicoke, Toronto and East York and the Scarborough Community Councils also considered agenda items related to the establishment of a new casino in Toronto.

Background reports and Community Council and Committee decisions are available online at: www.toronto.ca/casinoconsultation.

Public Information

Public consultation will be an important part of Council's decision making process. The consultation will invite the public to give input, including potential concerns, principles and criteria that should be applied to decision making about a casino in Toronto.

The consultation will include a dedicated website with information on the issues described above, links to reports and an online and downloadable consultation workbook and feedback form.

There are many complex issues to consider regarding the establishment of a new casino. To support public learning, informed discussion and Council decision-making the consultation will include:

- Clear information to the public including the City's role and the decision making process
- Council and Committee reports
- Preliminary assessments of the areas being considered for locating a casino as well as the possible social, economic, health and land use impacts
- Information on the City's fiscal situation and potential revenue
- An online and downloadable workbook and feedback form to collect public input.
- Face-to-face public sessions with opportunities to learn more about the issues and provide input.

A range of communication and outreach methods will be developed which include print and online advertisements, social media, media releases, outreach through City staff and facilities.

Reporting Out

The City Manager was asked to conduct public consultations and report to the Executive Committee in March 2013 on the results of the consultation, and any further analysis conducted. At that time, the City will be in a better position to

respond to the Province, and can either accept, reject or specify certain conditions under which Toronto would be willing to host a new OLG casino.

A summary of the public consultation along with public input will be provided along with the City Manager's report and will also be posted to the City's website and Open Data page.

Timeline

Phase 1 - December 2012

- Launch consultation website
- Post consultation plan and timelines
- Post background documents and reports

Phase 2 - January, 2013

- Consultation opens beginning of month
- Collect public input through website, public sessions and hard-copy
- Public Sessions:
 - January 9, Toronto City Hall
 - January 12, North York Memorial Hall
 - January 14, Etobicoke Olympium
 - January 17, Scarborough Civic Centre
 - January 19, Toronto Reference Library
- Post information about Councillor-led ward-sessions
- Consultation closes end of month

Phase 3 - February, 2013

- Analysis of data
- Development of reports

Phase 4 - March 2013

- City Manager reports to Executive Committee
- All reports, summaries and raw data posted to consultation and Open Data web sites
- Summaries and input from Councillor-led sessions posted to project website