

March 19, 2003

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: IN SUPPORT OF FALUN DAFA (FALUN GONG)

WHEREAS Falun Dafa is a peaceful and nonviolent form of personal belief and practice with tens of millions of practitioners in China, Canada and over fifty-five (55) countries around the world; and,

WHEREAS presently there are over twelve (12) family members of Toronto residents being persecuted in China for being practitioners of Falun Dafa; and,

WHEREAS “I have to say looking down the list of Canadian citizens and permanent residents who are detained in China, it is readily apparent that most of those people are from the Toronto, Ontario area”, said MPP and past city councillor, Michael Prue, July 16, 2002; and,

WHEREAS since July 20, 1999, the Government of the People’s Republic of China has forbidden Falun Dafa practitioners to practice their beliefs, and has systematically attempted to eradicate the practice and those who follow it; and,

WHEREAS this government policy violates the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and,

WHEREAS the Government of the People’s Republic of China has created notorious government “610” offices throughout the People’s Republic of China with the special task of overseeing the persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners through organized brainwashing, torture, and murder; and,

WHEREAS propaganda from state-controlled media in the People’s Republic of China has inundated the public in an attempt to breed hatred and discrimination; and,

WHEREAS women in particular have been the target of numerous forms of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, and forced abortion; and,

WHEREAS the campaign of persecution that has been generated by the Chinese government is carried out by government officials and state police, and has permeated every village and every level of government in China; and,

WHEREAS Falun Dafa is a system of mind and body which has ancient historical roots in oriental culture; and,

WHEREAS between July 20, 1999 and December 1, 2001 – in under a year and a half -- more than 500 hundred practitioners were sentenced to long prison terms; more than 1000 practitioners were illegally imprisoned in 43 psychiatric hospitals; over 20,000 practitioners were sent to labour camps without trial; at least 100,000 practitioners were arrested and detained; and at least 319 Falun Dafa practitioners were persecuted to death -- this is an average of 20 deaths per month; and,

WHEREAS on October 8, 1999 in Beijing, China, a Secret Press Conference was held by Falun Dafa practitioners to appeal through the world media to other countries for help; and,

WHEREAS in April 2002 an official document calling for large-scale assault on Falun Dafa practitioners, including a suggestion to use the death sentence, was distributed to middle level officials of some government agencies in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, China; and,

WHEREAS on September 5, 2001 Mayor Mel Lastman wrote Prime Minister Jean Cretien requesting his attention to the plight of 130 Falun Dafa practitioners engaged in a hunger strike in Shenyang City; and,

WHEREAS the mayor of Ottawa, Bob Chiarelli, proclaimed January 24, 2001 Falun Dafa Day; and,

WHEREAS nine (9) municipalities in Ontario have proclaimed Falun Dafa week, namely: Orillia, Elliot Lake, Ajax, Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Spring Water, New Tecumseth, Whitby, and Uxbridge; and,

WHEREAS on July 19, 2002, nearly the third anniversary of the ongoing Chinese government campaign of persecution, the Councils of six (6) Canadian municipalities passed resolutions condemning the persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners in China, namely: the Township of Carling, the Town of Harbour Brenton, the Town of Torbay, the Township of Coleman, the Municipality of the County of Richmond, and the Town of Burin; and,

WHEREAS on July 23, 2002 the U.S. Congress unanimously passed Bill 188 condemning China on its persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners; and,

WHEREAS on November 6, 2002 Chicago City Council unanimously passed a resolution condemning China on its persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council demand:

- 1) the Government of the People's Republic of China cease its persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners, and its representatives in Toronto, cease their harassment of citizens and residents of Toronto who practice Falun Dafa and cease their attempts to put pressure on officials of multiple levels of governments in Canada to refuse or withdraw support for Falun Dafa and its practitioners;
- 2) Toronto City Council and the Canadian government should use every appropriate public and private forum to urge the Government of the People's Republic of China:
 - A) to release from detention all Falun Dafa practitioners and put an end to the practices of torture and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment against them and other prisoners of conscience; and,
 - B) to abide by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by allowing Falun Dafa practitioners to pursue their beliefs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council proclaims July 20, 2003 "*Falun Dafa Day*" in remembrance of those who have suffered government persecution for being practitioners of Falun Dafa in China since July 20, 1999;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council support those who practice Falun Dafa and feel that what they are teaching and what they are practicing is a wonderful thing, and would like the Chinese government to look at Toronto and see what a good thing Falun Dafa has been to Toronto and to believe that just as there is room for everyone in this city, so there should be room for everyone in a large and increasingly prosperous country like China;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Government investigate allegations of illegal activities in Canada of the Government of the People's Republic of China and its representatives and agents, including allegations of unlawful harassment of Canadian citizens and residents who practice Falun Dafa and of officials of Provincial and local governments in Canada who support Falun Dafa, and should take appropriate action,

including but not limited to enforcement of the immigration laws, against any such representatives or agents who engage in such illegal activities;

AND NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a certified copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Mr. Jean Cretien, *Prime Minister of Canada*, the Honourable Mr. John Manley, *Minister of Foreign Affairs*, the Honourable Kofi Annan, *General-Secretary of the United Nations*, Mr. Hu Jintao, *President of China*, Mr. Wen Jiabao, *Prime Minister of China*, Mr. Jiang Zemin, *Chairman of Central Military Commission* and Mr. Ping Mei, *Chinese Ambassador in Canada*.