

October 24, 2002

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 7, 2002

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: TORONTO OLYMPIC PLEBISCITE

WHEREAS gathering public opinion via plebiscite furthers open and transparent government; and,

WHEREAS the cost of a plebiscite can be minimized when conducted simultaneously with a scheduled election; and

WHEREAS Toronto has a scheduled election in November, 2003; and

WHEREAS Bern, Switzerland recently held a plebiscite on public consent for its multi-million dollar bid for the 2010 Winter Olympics, the result being nearly 4 to 1 against; and

WHEREAS Bern, Switzerland had already spent considerable millions of public dollars prior to this plebiscite; and

WHEREAS the cities of Sydney (2000) and Montreal (1976), among others, were left with billions of dollars of debt after their respective Olympics and are still struggling with this debt; and

WHEREAS there are other international events such as a World's Fair that generate positive outcomes with fewer negative possibilities that may be more appropriate in Toronto; and

WHEREAS the City's infrastructure is in dire need of maintenance and upgrade greater in scope than the funding accompanying an Olympic Games could provide; and

WHEREAS the City's official bid for the 2008 Olympics cost 128% more than budgeted, ballooning from \$21 million to \$46 million; and

WHEREAS taxpayers in Toronto will be directly affected by any future Olympic bid through the spending of their tax dollars; and

WHEREAS all residents in Toronto will be directly affected as a result of the hosting of an Olympic Games;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council commit to the holding of a city-wide plebiscite on the support for an Olympic Games bid, prior to formalizing any such bid for the 2012, 2016, or any later contemplated Olympics;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a plebiscite question seeking public input on this question be included on the November 2003 municipal election ballot;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the appropriate City officials be requested to take any action necessary to give effect to the foregoing, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that may be required.

Moved By: Councillor Michael Walker