

**AGENDA ITEM 17 Doc7**

**Subject: FOPL Government Relations Contract**

**Date: June 3, 2018**

**Prepared by: Stephen Abram, FOPL Executive Director**

**Prepared for: FOPL BoD, June 8, 2018**

The FOPL Board needs to decide to renew our Counsel Public Affairs contract for the rest of 2018. At the time of the 2017-18 budget creation we were not aware of the full impacts of the provincial election and how this would affect our strategies so much. (I’m writing this a week before then election but I think this is a good prediction!).

Here is the info I am using for the budget ask to the FOPL Board – note it is a bit convoluted for you to replicate as 50% of Counsel’s fee structure is based on OLA as the other 50% on FOPL excluding the Queen’s Park day which OLA usually covers most of the cost. Also, a Queen’s Park Day is tentative this year given the chaos in the politics.

Counsel Public Affairs (Library Day at Queen’s Park) OLA budgeted $25,250 (FY 2017/18, 2018/19)

Background: Counsel Public Affairs was hired last year for the following tasks:

* Development of an overall government relation’s strategy, including establishing objectives and supporting messaging;
* Supporting the campaign kick-off at the 2017 Association of Municipal Organizations (AMO) Annual Conference;
* Leading the planning and execution of the 2017 Library Day at Queen’s Park and guiding your advocacy efforts in support of your joint OLA/FOPL Pre-Budget Submission and Recommendations throughout the 2018 Ontario Budget process.

With the Ontario, provincial election set for June, and closely followed by municipal elections in late October, it is important to develop and execute a government relation’s strategy to protect our success to date and make progress towards those objectives still to be achieved.

2. OLA and FOPL asked Counsel Public Affairs to provide fees for continue work:

a. Extended retainer fees for Counsel Public Affairs $5,000 July – August 2018, need approval from Board (in current budget) (10K in total split between OLA and FOPL)

b. Potential Library Day at Queen’s Park in the spring $10,000 ($2000 from FOPL)

c. Retainer fee for Counsel Public Affairs September to October 2018 $5,000 (10k in total split between OLA and FOPL)

d. Strategy for the 2018 AMO Conference $5,000 (10k in total split between OLA and FOPL while SOLS is covering the booth costs)

e. 1% Admin/Travel Fees $250

As such I recommend that FOPL budget from now through Oct. 31, 2018 the following amounts

1. Counsel Retainer Fee (50%) for July-Oct. $10,000 +HST
2. Potential Queen’s Park Day (or other strategy - $2000.00 + HST

We have been VERY pleased with Counsel’s work, and now is not the time to let up given the successes we have had to date the need to retain and reinforce them.

**Motion:**

To support our government relations activities by extending Counsel Public Affairs contract through Oct. 31, 2018 for $12,000.00. We will take this from our strategic funds. This will cover lobbying the new provincial government, creating municipal election toolkits, AMO, and other advice.

Moved:

Seconded:

Passed/ Failed