

## **ADDITIONAL AGENDA**



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### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015 – 9:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE  
300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5B 3C1

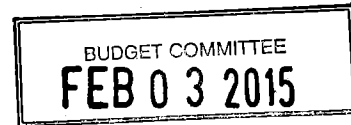
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#### INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-2    Item 2    Letter received February 2, 2015 from Patrick Cullen, Chair of the Board of the Compass
  
- I-3    Item 3    Letter received February 2, 2015 from Elisabeth McGregor, Intake Worker/Social Worker, The Compass

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CITY OF MISSISSAUGA BUDGET COMMITTEE



First a short introduction:

The Compass is a Food Bank and outreach centre serving south Mississauga since 2002. Under the Mississauga Food Bank umbrella we provide assistance to over 350 families each month made up of over 800 individuals. Our clients live within 3 postal codes i.e. G H and J. In addition to distributing in excess of 25,000 lbs of food per month (40% of which comes from the MFB), weekly up to 150 people participating in one or more of the 14 other programs we offer to assist our community.

We have two part time paid staff and over 250 volunteers, who contribute more than 15,000 hours of their time in support of our activities. We are supported by 17 local churches and a volunteer board of directors.

Each year we are faced with an increasing demand for bus tickets. People need bus tickets to be able to attend possible job interviews, to attend doctor's appointments, or to avoid having to walk long distances with heavy bags when leaving the Compass because their transfer has expired. Tickets are also needed to bring children to their own necessary appointments or to bring them along simply because our clients cannot leave them at home alone nor afford babysitters or day care. In 2014 we spent in excess of \$12,500 dollars to be able to meet some of our client's needs but we feel the pain every day because we simply do not have the financial ability to buy the number of tickets needed to meet these legitimate needs.

OUR HOPE

Our hope is that Miway, City of Mississauga and the Region of Peel could find ways to either address the issue for the entire community or to assist us in being able to provide viable solutions to meet the needs of our clients maybe, for example, by making more creative use of technology like the Presto card

WHAT ARE SOME POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Provide free bus service during non-peak hours to children and seniors. Eliminate the need for children and seniors to have to buy strips of tickets in order to access the lowest fare i.e. allow them to pay a reduced but reasonable cash fare. Allow organizations like the Compass to stamp transfers providing extra ridership access them beyond the current two hours. Develop a dignified way to assist those in real need of financial assistance: the under employed, the unemployed, the mentally and physically challenged, those on fixed incomes as all these people are our social responsibility.

Patrick Cullen CCLP

Chair of the Board of the Compass



City Budget Committee

SUBSIDIZED BUS TICKETS FOR THE COMPASS

During the 12 years The Compass has been in operation we have become all too familiar with the challenges facing low income members of our community. The cost of transportation is primary among those challenges.

When there is not enough money for food, there is also not enough money for transportation. It is not uncommon for someone to walk an hour or more to get to our food bank because they cannot afford bus fare - and even when they are in good health and benefit from the exercise, getting back home with heavy bags, especially in inclement weather, is a whole other matter.

And then there's the considerable number of people who are not in good health.

And what about the cost of transportation in relation to the rest of life? All too frequently we hear a client say that he or she cannot get to the doctor or to other appointments that would surely benefit their mental or physical health, simply because they cannot scrape together the money required for transportation. Job interviews must sometimes be forfeited for lack of funds, and even when employment has been secured, the cost of commuting to and from a work place until the first pay cheque comes in can be prohibitive.

Lack of financial resources very often leads to social isolation. Family ties become tentative when one cannot afford to visit. One client has a daughter living in Nova Scotia with terminal cancer. He would dearly love to see her before she dies, but he cannot afford to travel to Toronto, let alone Nova Scotia. Recreational and social activities become largely out of reach because most require money. The Compass offers a variety of free programs to help alleviate social isolation - breakfasts, lunches, footcare, haircuts, ESL, computer classes, men's and women's groups, cooking classes. But even these opportunities can only be of benefit if one has the means to get to them.

People of low income in our community are in need of assistance with the cost of transportation. Currently at The Compass we allocate a portion of our budget to the purchase of bus tickets, but we do not come close to meeting the extent of the need. The ability to purchase tickets at a reduced rate from Mississauga Transit would help enormously. We would greatly appreciate any assistance from the The City of Mississauga in order to achieve this end.

Elisabeth McGregor  
Intake Worker/Social Worker  
The Compass