

EXHIBITION PLACE

**Confidential Report
To Be Considered at an In-Camera Meeting
Of the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place**

March 20, 2003

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Dianne Young
General Manager & CEO

Subject: Temporary Closure of Exhibition Place Grounds

Recommendation

It is recommended that pursuant to Section 6 of By-Law No. 25-85, the Board approve of a partial and temporary closure of the Exhibition Place grounds as outlined in this report.

Background:

By-Law No. 25-85 of the former Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto respecting "Management of Exhibition Place" outlines the authority of the Board and the General Manager respecting full or partial closure of Exhibition Place.

Discussion:

Exhibition Place has been negotiating a collective agreement with Labourers' International Union of North America, Local 506 (LIUNA Local 506) since the expiration of the agreement in March 2002. At Exhibition Place, LIUNA Local 506 represents cleaners and labourers (who do material handling, show move-in, banners etc). On March 11, 2003, negotiations between the parties with the use of a conciliation officer appointed by the Ministry of Labour broke down. The parties are now in a strike/lock-out position and the union has received a strike mandate from its members.

Exhibition Place does not require its tenants, licencees, clients to use only Exhibition Place labourers provided that all tenants, licencees and clients use companies that have a collective agreement with LIUNA Local 506. There are in fact, three significant private companies that have their own collective agreement with LIUNA Local 506 and provide services to show clients at Exhibition Place and other venues in the City: GES, Chairman Mills and Freeman. GES, Chairman Mills and Freeman are all in a strike position as of March 24, 2003.

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The convergence of the possible strike action by LIUNA locals for Exhibition Place, GES, Chairman Mills and Freeman make it possible for a planned consorted strike action to take place at Exhibition Place as early as March 24, 2003. The number of union members that may be picketing may be far in excess of the numbers that would be on the picket line if the strike just involved the Exhibition Place labourers and cleaners.

Commencing March 24, 2003, the NTC has two major shows: One-of-a-Kind Spring Show (March 24 – March 30) and the National Home Show (March 26 to April 15). Staff have developed a strike plan in consultation with the show producers and the intent is to continue with the business of preparing these shows and delivering the necessary services to the shows and their visitors.

However, to ensure that Exhibition Place can provide a safe environment for the show producer, exhibitor and visitor, staff are recommending that the grounds be partially closed on a temporary basis for the duration of the strike action from the intersection at Dufferin and Saskatchewan Road east to the Princes' Gates. Picketing would only be allowed outside the closures. This recommendation has been considered by the Exhibition Place labour law solicitor, the City Solicitor and the Police Services Board who agree with this direction.

Accordingly, staff are recommending that pursuant to Section 6(1)(b) of By-Law 25-85, the Board authorize the partial closure of Exhibition Place "during ...the period it deems necessary for the safe and orderly carrying out of a permitted activity or event" which in this instance would be for the period of any strike action affecting the grounds.

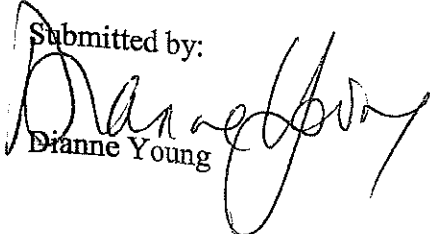
Conclusion:

This report recommends that the Board exercise its authority pursuant to Section 6 of By-Law 25-85 to temporarily close part of the Exhibition Place grounds during the period of any strike action by LIUNA Local 506.

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Submitted by:


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