

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 25, 2014
FROM:	CATHARINE SAUNDERS CITY CLERK
SUBJECT	AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL POLICY 28(2) COUNCIL MEMBERS' EXPENSE ACCOUNT

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the City Clerk, the attached proposed by-law (Appendix "A") BE INTRODUCED at the Municipal Council meeting on April 1, 2014 for the purpose of repealing Council Policy 28(2) entitled "Council Members' Expense Account" and replacing it with a revised Council Policy 28(2) entitled "Council Members' Expense Account" in order to incorporate the following directions of the Municipal Council to:

- a) to provide for the quarterly reporting of Council Members' expenses on the City of London's website;
- b) include, as a permissible expense, costs associated with educational forums, hosted by Members of Council, for the benefit of the public;
- c) require that "unconsumed" purchases from the Council Members' annual expense allocation be returned to the City at the end of a Council Member's period of office; and
- d) include, as a permissible expense, the purchase of multiple tickets to a community event as an allowable expense.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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None.

BACKGROUND

In recent months, the Municipal Council has taken the following actions which impact Council Policy 28(2) entitled "Council Members' Expense Account":

- a) The first was to direct staff to bring back the necessary policy amendment to provide for quarterly reporting of Council Members' expenses on the City of London's website. This direction arose from the desire of Council Members to improve the transparency of Council Members' expenditures.
- b) The second was to direct staff to bring back a potential policy amendment to accommodate the costs associated with educational forums hosted by Members of Council. This arose from the desire of a Member of Council to host an educational forum for the public, which involved arrangements for a guest speaker with specialized expertise regarding a particular environmental matter, which the Council Member thought would be of interest to the general public.
- c) The third was to direct staff to bring back a potential policy amendment to require that unconsumed purchases be returned to the City at the end of a Council Members' period of office. This arose out of a question as to what could be done to address what some Council Members saw as a perceived gap in the current policy governing Council Members' expenses, as it relates to the purchase of goods, furniture, equipment, etc.

- d) The last was to direct staff to report back with the necessary policy amendment to include the purchase of multiple tickets to a community event as an allowable expense. This arose when some Council Members expressed a desire to be able to purchase a table at a community event so they could invite members of the public that might not otherwise have had an opportunity to attend the event.

The attached proposed by-law would repeal the current Council Policy 28(2) entitled “Council Members’ Expense Account” and replace it with a new Council Policy 28(2) entitled “Council Members’ Expense Account”, to reflect the above-noted directions by the Municipal Council. Any changes in the policy have been highlighted for the assistance of the Council Members.

RECOMMENDED BY:
CATHARINE SAUNDERS CITY CLERK

Attachment – Appendix “A”