



Policy Recommendation from the Board of Directors

Subject: Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Recommendation:

The Burlington Chamber of Commerce supports the concept of a Burlington Performing Arts Centre (PAC) but recognizes that the business community has concerns about tax implications and capital spending priorities. The Chamber therefore urges council to ensure that the proposed provincial and federal funding for the PAC is confirmed before construction begins. We further urge council to ensure that construction costs are capped at the proposed plan of \$36,200,000.

Executive Summary:

The City of Burlington is currently planning the construction of a new Performing Arts Centre. The new PAC is expected to bring many benefits to the city but it also brings with it substantial costs, both capital and operating. The concern of the Chamber focuses on the tax implications for businesses. A survey of Chamber members indicates that there are three primary concerns: cost containment, funding sources and capital spending priorities. It is important to the business community that the costs for the PAC be controlled and limited to the current budget proposal of 36.2 million dollars. Increases in capital costs can result in unwanted increases in property taxes for businesses. It is also important that the proposed funding support from other levels of government (i.e. \$4 million from the federal and \$4 million from the provincial) be confirmed. Without this level of funding support the burden on the local business community becomes onerous.

Dissemination:

Mayor, City of Burlington
Councillors, City of Burlington
City Manager
General Manager, Development & Infrastructure
General Manager, Corporate Services
General Manager, Community Services

Date: Passed by the Board of Directors March 12, 2008