



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: June 26, 2023

SUBJECT:	2023 Economic Developers Association of Canada Conference
PREPARED BY:	Chris Rickett, Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled “2023 Economic Developers Association of Canada Conference” be received;
- 2) That the City be represented by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Committee;
- 3) That the total cost of the “2023 Economic Developers Association of Canada Conference” not exceed \$5,000 and be funded from within the Business Development Operating Budget; and,
- 4) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Committee to attend the 2023 Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) annual conference between September 30th and October 3rd in Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

BACKGROUND:

The Economic Developers Association of Canada is the country’s national professional organization of economic developers. The organization provides a range of support, including professional accreditation, training and development, networking and events, as well as tools to support community development.

Annually, EDAC hosts a national conference that brings together economic development professionals, government stakeholders and political leaders together to share trends in economic development and community building, highlight innovative programs and projects from across the country, and celebrate successes from the profession.

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

The proposed attendance at the EDAC Conference will seek to achieve the following key objectives:

- 1) Learn about trends in economic development and community building across Canada that could be applied in Markham.

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- 2) Connect with economic development leaders and stakeholders to share projects and initiatives in Markham.
 - 3) Build relationships with foreign direct investment and lead generation firms that could support Markham in the future.

Overall, attending the EDAC Conference will ensure Markham continues to have a presence among other leading communities across Canada, while sharing its successes and identifying future opportunities for collaboration.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed budget and costs for this conference is below. The total budget spend will be \$5,000. The budget will be funded through Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship's operating funds.

Economic Developers Association of Canada Conference	Cost
Travel and Logistics (2 Councillors at \$2,500)	\$5,000
Total	\$5,000

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Build Markham as the best place to live, invest, work, and experience rich diversity

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Economic Growth, Culture & Entrepreneurship
Finance Department

RECOMMENDED BY:

Chris Rickett
Director, Economic Growth, Culture
and Entrepreneurship

Arvin Prasad
Commissioner, Development
Services