

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	Sandbox Interim Board – Economic and Creative Development Director Voting Status
Date	March 5 th , 2025
Ward	All
From	S. Schlichter, Director – Economic and Creative Development
Executive Member Approval	B. Araniyasundaran, P. Eng, PMP, General Manager, Infrastructure and Growth Management
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with updated information pertaining to the governance transition of the Sandbox Centre with the successful application for the new Regional Innovation Centre (RIC) located in Barrie that was announced on January 7th, 2025.

Specifically, this Memorandum will provide information regarding the authority needed for the Director of Economic and Creative Development department to serve on the Board of Directors, with voting rights as part of the interim transition to be able to select the new Board of Directors and finalize by-laws.

Sandbox Governance Structure & Board Transition

As the selected applicant for the RIC, Sandbox Centre is required to change their board composition and overall governance to align with the skills and expertise reflective of a RIC and to strategically guide the growth of the RIC in Barrie.

The Sandbox Centre's existing board has voted to dissolve and approve a new board to transition from the current advisory board to an operations board. An interim board is being formed to support the application process for the remaining board members and is being built to reflect the skill matrix approved as part of their application.

The interim board includes representation from the Sandbox Centre (Founder), Georgian College, Lakehead University and Invest Barrie (Economic and Creative Development).

In order for a senior City of Barrie staff member to participate on the transitional Board as a voting member, a direction of City Council to appoint is required. Sample wording is provided as reference:

That the Director of Economic and Creative Development be appointed as a voting member to the transition board of the Regional Innovation Centre for the purposes of new board member recruitment and governance.

That once the Regional Innovation Centre is established the Director of Economic and Creative Development report back to General Committee to advise of any further commitments required from the City including board membership.

Memo Author:

Stephannie Schlichter, Director, Economic and Creative Development
Department

File #:
REF C11

Pending #:

Not Applicable