

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: SUE BIG OIL CAMPAIGN DELEGATION AND COUNCIL DIRECTION

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the City of Burnaby commit to work towards a proposed class action suit against selected global fossil fuel companies, contingent upon other BC municipalities joining and raising a combined minimum of \$500,000, and to set aside the equivalent of \$1 per resident for this purpose; and

THAT any money awarded to the City as a result of a settlement, or court order, arising from this lawsuit be used to mitigate any current or future damage caused in Burnaby due to climate change; and

THAT the additional conditional participation in principle thresholds be achieved:

- a minimum pledge amount of 250,000 persons in other BC local governments; and
- at least one other pledge by a local government of 150,000 population or more.

REPORT

This report seeks to combine the Environmental Committee's February 21, 2024 recommendation and Council's additional decision on April 29, 2024 to provide direction and participation in principle parameters to staff and provide a formal response to the delegation parties.

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on February 21, 2024, received a delegation from Burnaby for Our Kids, Force of Nature Alliance and West Coast Environment Law, presenting information on the Sue Big Oil campaign to hold fossil companies accountable for the costs of the climate-related damage they are causing.

Arising from discussion, the Committee introduced and then voted on the following recommendation to Council:

THAT the City of Burnaby commit to work towards a proposed class action suit against selected global fossil fuel companies, contingent upon other BC municipalities joining and raising a combined minimum of \$500,000, and to set aside the equivalent of \$1 per resident for this purpose; and

THAT any money awarded to the City as a result of a settlement, or court order, arising from this lawsuit be used to mitigate any current or future damage caused in Burnaby due to climate change.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

After the Environment Committee meeting, discussion was referred to the Closed Council meeting under the *Community Charter* sections 90(1)(g) regarding litigation and 90(1)(i) regarding information that is subject to solicitor client privilege on March 25, 2024.

Arising from discussion at the Closed Council meeting held on April 29, 2024, Council passed a resolution to direct staff to release the participation in principle thresholds and conditions to an Open Council meeting as follows:

- THAT** the additional conditional participation in principle thresholds be achieved:
- a minimum pledge amount of 250,000 persons in other BC local governments; and
 - at least one other pledge by a local government of 150,000 population or more.

CARRIED
(Opposed: Councillor Lee)

For clarity, should the parameters of the City of Burnaby’s conditional participation in principle be met as outlined in this report and if the recommendation is adopted by Council, \$1.00 CAD per Burnaby resident will be pledged to the campaign.

On behalf of the Environment
Committee,

Councillor J. Keithley
Chair

Councillor M. Santiago
Vice Chair