

Re: Transfer of Municipal Responsibilities for the Assessment Function  
From the Municipality to the B.C. Assessment Authority  
(Item 23, Report No. 57, September 3, 1974)

Council, at its meeting of September 3, 1974, received the above-noted report to which was attached a copy of Circular #8, Designation, dated August 26, 1974, addressed to all Assessment Personnel from the B.C. Assessment Authority. Circulars #10, 12, 13, and 16 from the Assessment Authority were also provided to Council at that meeting.

Council tabled the above-noted report together with the additional circulars received on that evening. In the interim, we have now checked with the Assessment Authority regarding our recommendation in Item 23, Report No. 57, to seek clarification of the last paragraph of Circular #8 and more specifically, the sentence "Acceptance of designation shall be voluntary". The Assessment Authority advises that the sentence was added to the Circular because wording of the Assessment Authority of British Columbia Act (in force on July 2, 1974), which includes "The Authority may...appoint...officers and employees...fix their remuneration, and designate their functions and duties" could be construed as being somewhat abrupt and not providing the opportunity for Municipal or Provincial Assessment employees to accept or decline employment with the Authority.

As regards "designation" procedure, the Authority advises that Municipal and Provincial Assessment personnel will individually receive letters stating the effective date of designation and the salary scale available. A form letter will also be sent to employees which will give them the opportunity to agree to become employees of the Authority or to refuse employment.

It is anticipated that in municipalities, such as Burnaby, where the organization and Assessment function are of sufficient proportion to retain single-role staff, i.e. they are involved with no other function than Assessment, all staff, professional and clerical, will be "designated".

The Authority further advises that it is hoped that, in the case of Assessment employees not wishing to transfer, municipalities would extend to these persons for a period of 24 months, the right to apply, with their respective employers and as vacancies occur, for employment as in-service employees rather than as outside employees. We have made no decision in this respect and we hope we are not faced with the problem. We certainly do not intend to create positions to retain staff. This problem did not come up with the Justice transfer as all employees transferred.

Item 23, Report No. 47, should, therefore, just be "received" and no action taken on the recommendation as we have the answer to our question.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Item 23, Report No. 57, be received; and

THAT Circulars #10, 12, 13 and 16 be received.