

Re: Welfare Costs

The Social Assistance regulations under the Social Assistance Act filed July 3, 1974, Section 26, regarding the duties of the municipalities with respect to welfare services are as follows:

- "(2) Social administrative services to be provided and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the succeeding subsections of this section, and where staff members are employed by municipalities, such persons must have qualifications acceptable to the Director;
- (a) Each municipality with a population of 15,000 or over as at the latest Federal census is required to employ at least one staff member on a full-time basis and such additional ones as may be determined by the Director on a case-load basis.
- (b) Each municipality with less than 15,000 population as at the latest Federal census shall either employ a full-time staff member or arrange with the Department to undertake social work within the municipality, the Department to be reimbursed on the basis of 60 cents per capita of the population per annum, the municipality to provide office services."

Council will recall that Vancouver's Welfare Department was taken over by the Province on January 6, 1974, and the City of Vancouver was charged 60 cents per capita, as all municipalities are with populations of less than 15,000. Burnaby and other municipalities with populations of over 15,000 are responsible for certain administrative costs.

We are not sure what office services the City of Vancouver provides as required in Section 2(b) above. We do know, however, that Vancouver is paying 60 cents per capita as a result of the Province now providing welfare services in that City. It is the understanding of the Municipal Manager from discussions picked up at a meeting between The Honourable Minister of Human Resources and Lower Mainland Mayors, which was held at the Newton Inn, that the Province is paying for all of the services including rental of municipal facilities and is billing the City of Vancouver 60 cents per capita. This has, obviously, meant a tremendous saving to the City of Vancouver.

In reviewing our costs of operation, if we had been taken over by the Province, as was the case with Vancouver; and if we had been paid rent for the premises, as we understand is the case in Vancouver; and if we were billed 60 cents per capita per annum for the administrative costs, as we know is the case in the City of Vancouver, the saving to Burnaby for 1974 would have been approximately \$362,000.

Our latest understanding of when the Province might take over our Human Resources Department is that it will not be until the latter part of 1975 or, possibly, the early part of 1976. The Municipal Manager is concerned with the obvious inequity that has developed as a result of this municipality's Human Resources Department not being taken over by the Province. On the other hand, there are certain things that we can do with the Department if it is under our jurisdiction and, therefore, he is reluctant to attempt to expedite the takeover. There is little doubt, however, that what little control we might have for programs in this area is not worth \$362,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT a copy of this report item be forwarded to The Honourable Mr. Levi, and that he be requested to advise when he expects the takeover of the Burnaby Human Resources Department; and
2. THAT he be asked to advise what consideration he has given to the inequity that is developing as a result of the takeover of our and other Human Resources Departments not having taken place by this time; and
3. THAT he be asked to specifically state the intentions of the Province with respect to the "extra" costs of administration assumed by Burnaby and other municipalities in 1974 as a result of their not being taken over on January 6, 1974.