

RE: RENUMERATION FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

*THAT the recommendation of the Municipal Clerk be adopted.*

\* \* \* \* \*

1984 August 15

File: 2114

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

FROM: MUNICIPAL CLERK

SUBJECT: ENUMERATION FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT a full enumeration for the 1985 municipal election not be conducted with the effect of this action to be closely monitored in order to determine whether conducting a full enumeration every four (4) years will be a viable alternative to the present policy of enumerating every two (2) years.
2. THAT an enumeration for the 1985 municipal election be conducted for the seventeen (17) mobile poll locations and this continued to be done for each municipal election.

S U M M A R Y

This report provides background information as to why a full enumeration is now conducted for each municipal election and further provides documentation supporting a change in policy which would see a full enumeration conducted every four (4) years. A full enumeration was conducted in 1983 prior to the November 19 municipal election and if Council adopted the recommendations within this report the next full enumeration will take place prior to the 1987 November 21 municipal election.

R E P O R T

At the regular Council Meeting held on 1976 July 05 the Council of the day adopted the following recommendation of the Election Procedures Committee which was one of five recommendations submitted for consideration by that Committee:

"THAT a full enumeration of electors be carried out in 1977 and, that an enumeration be carried out every two (2) years thereafter."

A copy of the report of the Election Procedures Committee dated 1976 July 02 is attached to this report as Attachment 2 for Council's information.

ENUMERATION FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (Continued)

The Municipal Amendment Act 1976, which was Assented to on 1976 June 30, permitted qualified electors to file application for registration at the polling place on election day and accordingly be then entitled to vote.

In adopting the recommendations of the Elections Procedures Committee on 1976 July 05 Council also requested that representation be made to the Provincial Government for financial assistance towards the cost of biennial enumerations. This representation did not meet with success and funding is not provided by the Province for purposes of assisting with enumeration costs.

The approximate total cost for conducting the 1977 enumeration was \$40,026.26 with this expense escalating over the following three elections to the point where the estimated cost for conducting the 1985 enumeration is \$60,568.17. This is assuming no wage increase will be given to the enumerators over what they earned as enumerators for the 1983 municipal election. The attached table, Attachment 1, provides a comparison with other Lower Mainland municipalities respecting enumeration frequency and related statistics. An estimate is also contained within the table illustrating what effect not conducting an enumeration will have on the 1985 election.

Should Council concur with the recommendation not to conduct a full enumeration for the 1985 election the following steps will be taken to compensate for the lack of an enumeration:

- Polling day cards will continue to be mailed to all persons listed on the 1985 preliminary List of Electors.
- The election office will be staffed by our two Election Supervisors commencing approximately 1985 March 01 in order that newly completed registration cards will be processed upon receipt and telephone enquiries will be responded to immediately.
- Additional advertising in local newspapers and Information Burnaby will be necessary so as to inform the residents of the acceptance of new applications for the List of Electors and notification of the close of the List of Electors. This advertising will commence early in 1985 in order to allow the citizens approximately six (6) months to respond.

The negative consequences of the proposed change will be that residents who have moved into the municipality subsequent to the last election and are normally picked up during enumeration will not be, and these people may experience some delay at the polling place on election day waiting to register to vote. There may also be some re-directing required as people who have moved within the municipality, and did not register prior to election day, may go to the nearest polling place only to find that they are registered at their previous address. These people must be re-directed to the polling place where they are registered.

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ENUMERATION FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (Continued)

It is further expected that the number of polling day cards returned by Canada Post will increase to approximately 8,000 from the 4,222 cards that were returned in connection with the 1983 municipal election. This will mean an increase in postage costs for the return of these cards.

It is hoped that these negative consequences will occur in very minimal numbers and that people will take advantage of the advertisements and ensure that they are on the voters list prior to election day.

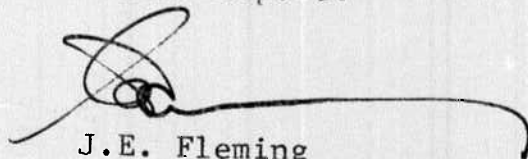
Respecting the mobile polls it is essential that the residents of the seventeen (17) mobile polls be enumerated. The turnover rate is extremely high due to the age and health of the residents. The present schedule for the mobile polls on election day does not allow the extra time needed to complete an excess number of new registrations. In 1983, the seventeen (17) mobile polls required 180 hours to complete the enumeration. It is anticipated that approximately the same number of hours will be required for 1985.

C O N C L U S I O N

I am recommending these changes in both my capacity as Municipal Clerk and as Returning Officer after having considered the Municipal Manager's Challenge Statement and further, the Director Administrative and Community Service's Challenge Statement. Conducting enumerations every two years is by comparison with the other surrounding municipalities, clearly the optimum; however, in these times of restraint the optimum may not always be practical.

  
C.A. Turpin  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

I concur with the recommendations in this report.

  
J.E. Fleming  
DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

## ENUMERATION SUMMARY

LAST YEAR ENUMERATED	ELECTION YEAR	MUNICIPALITY	REGISTERED VOTERS	% OF VOTER TURNOUT	NUMBER WHO REGISTERED AT POLL ON ELECTION DAY	REGISTERED AT POLL % OF REG. VOTERS	REGISTERED AT POLL % OF VOTER TURNOUT
1983	1983	BURNABY	78,000	27.0	844	1.08	4.0
1974	1983	COQUITLAM	27,320	37.0	1,900	7.00	18.8
1974	1983	DELTA	39,000	33.0	1,850	4.70	14.4
1974	1982	NEW WESTMINSTER	22,880	40.0	1,100	4.80	12.0
1974	1983	NORTH VANCOUVER (C)	17,000	13.5	494	2.90	21.5
1974	1983	NORTH VANCOUVER (D)	32,600	27.0	772	2.37	9.0
1974	1983	PORT COQUITLAM	9,600	38.0	412	4.30	11.3
1974	1983	PORT MOODY	4,800	46.0	413	8.60	18.8
1983	1983	*RICHMOND	53,600	30.0	304	0.57	2.0
1979	1983	SURREY	68,600	22.0	2,000	2.91	13.3

\* Previous enumeration was completed in 1977

ITEM 5  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 52  
COUNCIL MEETING 34/08/20

**ATTACHMENT 1**

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**ATTACHMENT 2**

July 5, 1976

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY  
ELECTIONS PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

July 2, 1976

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,  
AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Report of the Election Procedures Committee

At the Regular Council Meeting held on February 19, 1976 the Council adopted by resolution a recommendation from the Mayor:

'THAT the Election Procedures Committee consider the subject matter of holding Biennial Elections - that is to elect a Mayor and eight Aldermen every second year, and that a school Board Trustee be invited to participate in discussions pertaining to this matter.'

The Election Procedures Committee has met and considered this and other matters and submits the information and recommendations contained herein.

Biennial Elections

To gather background information and opinions the Committee wrote to constituency associations or major political parties together with the Burnaby Citizens Association and the Burnaby Voters Association inviting these associations to submit their views on the subject of biennial elections.

The Committee established the costs of annual elections by requesting the actual costs as reflected in budgets over the last five years.

	<u>ELECTIONS</u>	<u>LIST OF ELECTORS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1976	\$20,000 (Est.)	\$14,400. (Est.)	\$34,460. (Est.)
1975	25,804.	26,978.	52,782.
1974	16,821.	60,619.	77,440.
1973	33,958.	27,033.	60,991.
1972	27,689.	20,552.	48,241.

**NOTE:** 1974 was the year of the change to the "Municipal Act" which went from owner-electors, resident-electors and tenant-electors to electors being residents only, causing the need for a new enumeration.

One of the concerns regarding savings and costs was the expressed comment that the School Board would still be obliged to continue annual elections as it is governed by the "Public Schools Act".

The Committee contacted the Provincial Government to determine if there was some method to combine Municipal Council and School Trustee elections on a biennial basis.

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We have been advised that the Department of Education has recommended an amendment to the Public Schools Act to allow for biennial elections. The Public Schools Amendment Act was in committee and the recommendations contained herein assume that the amendments to the Public Schools Act were passed (Bill No. 55).

The Cities of Kamloops and Vancouver were contacted for their comments on biennial elections.

Trustee Mr. R.G. Begin of the Burnaby School Board attended the Committee Meeting in an informative capacity only.

The Committee was advised that the Burnaby School Board had adopted a resolution favouring annual elections, with the reserve position that this was subject to the reservation that the School Board would not pay for a special election.

The Committee considered the following concerns:

1. Annual elections provide more responsive public involvement;
2. School Board and Council could have total turnover;
3. By-election caused by resignation or death;
4. Money Bylaws;
5. Size of ballots and numbers of candidates will cause confusion;
6. Proper List of Electors.

The Committee has considered all of the foregoing and it is the opinion of the Committee that many more people vote during a Mayoral Election year and, that with a proper List of Electors and the heavy turnout in a Mayoral Election year that more people will be involved in the political process albeit not quite as frequently. The above comments are also applicable to the presentation of money bylaws to the electors.

The present List of Electors was compiled in 1974 and additions and deletions have been carried out but it is the opinion of the Committee that a proper enumeration will have to be carried out every two or four years. The reasons for this are because of the large turnover of residents in our Community, and, that land owners no longer automatically qualify to be placed on the List of Electors.

The Committee is pleased to advise Council that a Burnaby recommendation in 1975 to allow a resident who is not on the List of Electors to be recorded and entitled to vote on polling day has been adopted by the Provincial Government and the Municipal Act has been amended accordingly. This amendment will allow a resident who fulfils all the qualifications of an elector to cast his ballot in the event that his name does not appear on the List of Electors.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

Your Committee recommends as follows:

1. THAT Biennial Elections begin in the District of Burnaby in 1977;
2. THAT the term of office for Aldermanic candidates in the 1976 annual Municipal election be established as one (1) year;
3. THAT a full enumeration of electors be carried out in 1977 and, that an enumeration be carried out every two (2) years there after;
4. THAT representation be made to the Provincial Government for financial assistance towards the cost of the biennial enumerations; and
5. THAT a copy of this report and the actions of Council be sent to all those Burnaby organizations which were contacted.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman V.V. Stusiak,  
Chairman  
ELECTION PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Alderman B.M. Gunn  
Member  
ELECTION PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Alderman F.G. Randall  
Member  
ELECTION PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

