

ITEM 4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 8
COUNCIL MEETING 87/02/02

RE: LETTER FROM THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF OAK BAY, MUNICIPAL HALL,
WHICH APPEARED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 26TH MEETING OF COUNCIL (4 D)
FACTORY BUILT CHIMNEYS

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Planning & Building
Inspection be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1987 January 26

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

RE: FACTORY BUILT CHIMNEYS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to The Corporation
of the District of Oak Bay, Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay
Avenue, Victoria, B. C. V8R 1G2

BACKGROUND:

At its regular meeting of 1987 January 26, Council received correspondence from The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay relating to a brief submitted to the Honourable Rita M. Johnston, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Transit regarding the long term safety of metal fireplace and chimney installations.

The letter expressed the desire for amendments to Section 740 of the Municipal Act to allow a local government within its jurisdiction to impose more stringent requirements than those set out in the British Columbia Building Code.

REPORT

The Building Regulations of British Columbia were originally made by Provincial Order in Council 1765 approved 1973 May 25, adopting various existing codes and building requirements for application throughout the province.

The primary purpose of the regulations was to impart a uniform level of safety control relating to building construction throughout the entire province, a feature which had been badly lacking prior to that time and which was viewed by the construction industry as absolutely essential to the provision of adequate user safety and improved construction efficiency. Since that time changes to the B.C. Building Code, as the new regulations were then called, have come about through the adoption of amended building codes and changes in content instituted at a provincial level through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Planning and Building Inspection Department
Re: Factory Built Chimneys
1987 January 26

Page 2


ITEM	4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	8
COUNCIL MEETING	87/02/02

Systems are in place under the jurisdiction of the Department of Municipal Affairs, through the Building Inspectors' Association of British Columbia and through the various standing associate committees on the National Building Code to initiate any changes necessary to ensure the ongoing safety of building occupants. The proposal that local governments should be allowed to amend the regulations and initiate departures from the uniformity of the present highly effective regulatory system in the name of decentralization is viewed as an undesirable and unnecessary step. This view has been discussed with and is supported by the Burnaby Fire Department.

In conclusion, the suggestion of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay is not supported as it could lead to a return to the independent and conflicting regulations prevalent throughout the province prior to 1973.

 FRM/jce

cc: Chief Building Inspector
Fire Chief
Director Administrative & Community Services


A. L. PARR
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION