

ITEM 12
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 42
COUNCIL MEETING 90/06/18

RE: BRITISH COLUMBIA ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY
INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1990 JUNE 13

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

SUBJECT: BRITISH COLUMBIA ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY -
INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

PURPOSE: To provide input to the British Columbia Round Table on the
Environment and the Economy on the structure of a British
Columbia Institute for Sustainable Development.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, Market Square, 229 - 560 Johnson Street, Victoria, B. C., V8W 3C6.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting of 1990 May 28, Council received a letter and questionnaire from the British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. The letter requested advice "on the nature and structure of establishing a British Columbia Institute for Sustainable Development".

Staff have prepared a submission in the form of a brief that addresses the issues raised in the letter and the questionnaire. If the submission which follows is acceptable to Council, it will be sent to the British Columbia Round Table by 1990 June 20, as requested.

2.0 SUBMISSION TO THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

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2.1 Role of an Institute for Sustainable Development

British Columbia and its citizens would benefit from a centre or foundation capable of providing objective assessments of problems involving various environmental and economic issues, especially problems arising at the interface between the environment and the economy. Such a centre could also play an important role in providing assistance in undertaking technical reviews of specific topics related to the environment and the economy and serve as a central clearing house for current and historical information on the environment and the economy.

The mandate of the institute should include provision for subjects having municipal, regional and provincial significance to be submitted from government, private sector and the community at large.

To be as effective as possible in gathering reference materials, analyzing and reviewing information, and conducting research, the foundation must make the best possible use of existing resources in British Columbia, Canada (eg. International Institute for Sustainable Development in Winnipeg), and the world. To achieve this, efforts should be made to ensure the foundation is connected through an electronic network to similar institutions worldwide. Such a system would allow institutions concerned with research on sustainable development to share bibliographic information, newsletters and bulletins, research reports, contact lists of technical experts, etc.

2.2 Research

Applied research for solving problems related to the environment and the economy at the municipal, regional and provincial levels is needed. Multi-disciplinary research is required to initiate province-wide discussions and to foster strong interrelationships for problem-solving between the municipal, regional and provincial levels. The foundation should ensure that research priorities include: (1) establishing adequate environmental baseline data and resource inventories; (2) conducting assessments of individual products; (3) evaluating interrelationships between disciplines (especially social sciences, natural sciences and technology); (4) managing urban growth and development; and (5) developing more appropriate institutional frameworks.

Research should focus on issues of relevance to British Columbia and its citizens recognizing that many of these issues will also be of more global interest. British Columbia should take a proactive approach in conducting research on selected national and global issues which are also of provincial and local interest.

Research should be commissioned at arm's length from potential beneficiaries and parties that could be affected by the outcome of the research. Results of commissioned research should be in the public domain. All research proposals and results should be evaluated by independent referees who are recognized experts in their fields.

2.3 Organizational Structure and Management

The foundation should be a non-profit society established as an independent ombudsman's type of office. A board consisting of representatives of industry, academia, non-government organizations, public, and municipal/regional/provincial governments should be established to assist the Institute in identifying issues that would further its stated role.

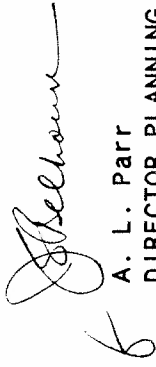
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2.4 Funding

It is our view that funding for the Institute should also be at arms length from those that could be directly affected by its work. Monies from the Sustainable Development Fund could be a source of funding. A specific levy could also be instituted to fund the operation of the Institute.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The Corporation of the District of Burnaby strongly supports the establishment of a British Columbia Institute for Sustainable Development based on the principles outlined in this report. It is recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the B.C. Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.


A. L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

SG/jp

cc: Director Engineering
Chief Public Health Inspector
Director Administrative and Community Services

