

ITEM	12
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	75
COUNCIL MEETING	93/12/20

TO: CITY MANAGER 1993 DECEMBER 15

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILES: 11.260
01.301.1

SUBJECT: **LOCAL REPRESENTATION ON
NORTH FRASER HARBOUR COMMISSION**

PURPOSE: To provide Council with information regarding possible changes to the structure of Port Authorities and the appointment of representatives to the North Fraser Harbour Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT**, in order for matters affecting both the national and local interest to be effectively addressed to the benefit of all involved, Council recommend that the present structure of the North Fraser Harbour Commission remain intact, including the appointment of both Federal and Municipal representatives to the Board of Commissioners.

2. **THAT** copies of this report be forwarded to:
 - a) The Honourable Douglas Young
Minister of Transport
Government of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

 - b) Ms. Irene Frith, Chairman
North Fraser Harbour Commission
2020 Airport Road
Richmond, B.C. V7B 1C6

 - c) Ms. Cathie Bruce, City Clerk
City of New Westminister
511 Royal Avenue
New Westminister, B.C. V3L 1H9

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

On 1993 November 15 Council received correspondence from the New Westminister City Clerk providing information on possible changes to the structure of Port Authorities, including the ability of local government to appoint representatives.

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At issue is the expressed interest of the Chairman of the Board, Vancouver Port Corporation, to pursue unification of the Vancouver Port with the North Fraser and Fraser River Port Authorities. Concern has been expressed that, if this was to occur, local government representation would be lost.

Council has, therefore, referred the matter to staff for a report to confirm the information regarding appointments to the North Fraser Harbour Commission.

2.0 EXISTING STRUCTURE OF NORTH FRASER HARBOUR COMMISSION

The North and Middle arms of the Fraser River form the North Fraser Harbour which is the area of responsibility for the North Fraser Harbour Commission. The harbour is comprised of 18 miles of tidal-influenced waterway contiguous with the boundaries of the Cities of Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and a minor portion of New Westminster.

The Commission functions through a Board of five Commissioners. Three are appointed by the Federal Government and two are appointed on the recommendation of the Mayors and Councils of the Cities of Burnaby, Richmond and Vancouver.

The Commission has as its mission statement: "... to provide innovative and responsible leadership in the administration of the North Arm's river highway and to ensure that all development enhances the economic opportunity, recreational potential and environmental integrity of the area. In support of this mission, the Commission will work with other public and private organizations as partners in areas of mutual interest".

3.0 DISCUSSION

Burnaby is represented on the North Fraser Harbour Commission. Representation of the nine Municipalities served by the companion Fraser River Harbour Commission have stated their concern over the impacts of extending the Vancouver Port Corporation's authority. In this regard, they have requested each of their Councils to endorse the following points:

- *The Harbour Commission Act provides for direct appointment of local representatives to the Commission by Municipalities. By contrast the Port Corporation structure allows Ottawa to make all appointments to the Board of Directors of the Vancouver Port Corporation.*
- *The nine municipalities have current and ongoing interests in the environment, land use and local economy which are best addressed by direct Municipal appointments.*
- *The three jurisdictions have working arrangements which effectively facilitate national objectives while maintaining local competition and options important to the success of local industry.*

158 • *The nine municipalities are unaware of any significant advantages to be obtained by amalgamation in any form.*

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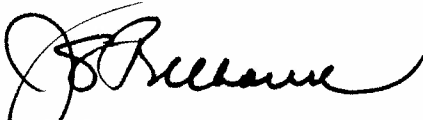
Staff have contacted the Port Manager of the North Fraser Harbour Commission and have determined that the structure of the Harbour Commission does differ from that of the Vancouver Ports Corporation. Under the present authorities, the ability for local governments to recommend the appointment of representatives would be lost if the North Fraser and Fraser River areas were brought under the umbrella of Vancouver Port Authority.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

Staff's experience to date with the North Fraser Harbour Commission as presently constituted has been more than satisfactory. It is our opinion that this is due, in part, to the fact specific expertise can be brought to bear on local issues on a one-to-one basis within a framework that reflects national objectives. It is conceivable that, if all three jurisdictions were combined into one large agency, the result could be that less of an emphasis would be placed on local issues within the North Arm. Moreover, the ability to provide local representation on the Board of Commissioners would be lost.

Our recent experience in the partnership funding arrangements for the Fraser River dyking and fisheries enhancement program east of Boundary Road reinforces the desirability of maintaining a direct local contact.

It is, therefore, proposed that Council recommend that the present structure of the North Fraser Harbour Commission remain intact.


D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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