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- MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER  
- A/CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSP.  
CITY OF BURNABY

REPORT  
1993 March 22

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: SUBJECT: 1993 FCM RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council endorse the resolutions on recycled content in manufactured goods and excessive packaging in Section 2.0 of this report for submission to the 1993 annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 24 Clarence Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5P3.
3. THAT copies of this report be forwarded to the GVRD and the Project Manger of the Solid Waste Management Plan Review for information in support of waste reduction strategies.
4. THAT copies of this report be forwarded to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks and Dr. Barb Copping, Member of Legislative Assembly, Mr. Barry Jones, Member of Legislative Assembly, Mr. Fred Randall, Member of Legislative Assembly, and Honourable Joan Sawicki, Member of Legislative Assembly.
5. THAT copies of this report be forwarded to Mr. Svend Robinson, Member of Parliament, and Ms. Dawn Black, Member of Parliament.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

In 1990, the City of Burnaby submitted a resolution on recyclable materials to the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Municipal multi-material curbside recycling programs across Canada encounter many difficulties in locating, developing and maintaining reliable markets for recyclable materials they collect. The resolution requested the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to urge the federal government and territorial/provincial governments to enact legislation requiring suitable percentages of recyclable materials in new products manufactured of paper, glass, plastic, metals and other recyclable materials reclaimed from the waste stream. The resolution was adopted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in 1990.

At the 1993 March 09 meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Committee, the draft State of the Environment Report for Burnaby was reviewed and discussed. The Committee noted in its discussion of solid waste management that, in spite of the 1990 resolution adopted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, little progress has been made in mandating minimum percentages of a range of recycled materials in manufactured goods. The Committee also noted the significant contribution that excessive packaging material makes to the waste stream. Thus, the Committee adopted a motion to revise the 1990 resolution to reflect Burnaby's State of the Environment Report and to resubmit the resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The Committee also moved to prepare and submit a resolution on excessive packaging to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

## 2.0 RESOLUTIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

The following resolutions on recyclable materials and excessive packaging have been prepared for submission to the 1993 annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

### 2.1 Recyclable Materials

WHEREAS curbside and depot-based multi-material recycling programs are becoming integral parts of municipal waste management programs in all parts of Canada;

WHEREAS the viability of municipal recycling programs is dependent on reliable markets for materials collected through these programs;

WHEREAS demand for recyclable materials is highly susceptible to fluctuations in markets for these materials;

WHEREAS the City of Burnaby, British Columbia intends to adopt a State of the Environment Report for the City which includes the goal, "To mandate end use, materials banning and minimum recycled material content in new production and potential packaging and deposit requirements for a wide range of materials through legislative changes";

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the Government of Canada and, through provincial and territorial municipal associations, urge provincial and territorial governments to enact appropriate legislation to require manufacturers of products composed of paper (including newsprint), glass, plastic, metals and such other materials that may be reclaimed from the waste stream to include a suitable percentage of recyclable materials in these products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the Government of Canada and, through provincial and territorial municipal associations, urge provincial and territorial governments to adopt policies and/or legislation requiring all federal agencies (including but not limited to federal ministries, Crown corporations, the RCMP, and the Armed Services) and all provincial and territorial agencies (including but not limited to provincial/territorial agencies, Crown corporations, regional districts, municipalities and school districts) to give preference to suppliers of goods and materials that include a suitable component of recycled content in their products.

## 2.2 Excessive Packaging

WHEREAS municipalities are taking steps to provide recycling and waste reduction programs for residents;

WHEREAS unnecessary and wasteful packaging is a significant contributor to the waste stream;

WHEREAS the established hierarchy of the 3R's of waste management is REDUCE, before REUSE, before RECYCLE;

WHEREAS municipalities cannot recycle all of the components of an ever growing wastestream;

WHEREAS the City of Burnaby, British Columbia intends to adopt a State of the Environment Report for the City which includes the goal, "To mandate end use, materials banning and minimum recycled material content in new production and potential packaging and deposit requirements for a wide range of materials through legislative changes";

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities request the Government of Canada and, through provincial and territorial municipal associations, request provincial and territorial governments to enact suitable legislation and/or policies to require manufacturers and distributors of goods and materials to reduce the amount of packaging used for their products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities request Government of Canada and, through provincial and territorial municipal associations, request provincial and territorial governments to enact policies and or legislation whereby all federal agencies (including but not necessarily limited to federal ministries, Crown corporations, the RCMP, and the Armed Services) and all provincial and territorial agencies (including but not necessarily limited to provincial/territorial agencies, Crown corporations, regional districts, municipalities, and school districts) give preference to suppliers of goods and materials that employ reduced methods of packaging.

3.0 SUMMARY

Municipal efforts to reduce the waste stream through multi-material recycling programs are being hampered by the lack of reliable markets for recyclable materials. Excessive packaging material also contributes significantly to the volume of solid waste produced. Two resolutions prepared for submission to the 1993 annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities seek to address this problem by legislating minimum contents of recyclable materials in a range of manufactured products and by legislating reductions in the amount of packaging material used by the manufacturers and distributors of goods and materials. Purchasing policies that give preference to manufactured products containing recyclable materials and to products with reduced packaging are also addressed in the resolutions.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor L. A. Rankin  
Chair

Councillor D. Lawson  
Member

Councillor C. Redman  
Member