
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2006 September 12

FROM: DIRECTOR HUMAN RESOURCES

SUBJECT: FULL TIME FUNDED COORDINATOR FOR BC MUNICIPAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION

PURPOSE: To provide Council with information regarding the benefits that a fully funded BCMSA Coordinator will bring to the City of Burnaby; and to request they support the proposal for a 1¢ levy per \$100 of assessable payroll on WorkSafeBC Assessments.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the WorkSafeBC proposal for a full time funded Coordinator for the BC Municipal Safety Association (BCMSA) is endorsed and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) is notified of the City of Burnaby's response.

REPORT

The British Columbia Municipal Safety Association (BCMSA) is a not-for-profit association, registered under the Societies Act of BC, representing member municipalities in British Columbia. Membership is voluntary and open to all municipalities and Regional Districts in BC; the Association currently has 79 members. Burnaby has been a member of the BCMSA since 1999. Currently all activities of the Association are conducted by volunteers, who are Municipal or Regional District employees with safety responsibilities.

An effective method for improving workplace safety is to undertake activities accessible to all municipalities. Preparing and delivering occupational health and safety programs, promoting safe work practices, and developing best practices for high risk work are activities that would be of use to all municipalities and regional districts. Through a 1¢ levy on WorkSafe BC Assessments, the Association will be able to fund a full-time Coordinator to undertake these activities.

Furthermore, a fully funded employer association ensures all municipalities participate, ensuring eligibility for participation in the 'Certificate of Recognition' (COR) Program. WorkSafe BC stated COR program participation is only permitted when the entire classification unit (Local Government) is part of a recognized association.

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Completion of the COR program rewards employers with a discount in their assessment rate of up to a 15%. For the City of Burnaby, this amounts to a potential savings of approximately \$190,000.00.

ANALYSIS

Concurrence: The Executive of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities has supported this initiative in principal, and has requested a response from municipalities and Regional Districts by September 30th, 2006. Employer representatives of the BCMSA and its Executive support this proposal.

Financial Impacts: A levy of 1¢ per \$100 of Assessable payroll would cost the City of Burnaby approximately \$8,000.00 per year. This figure is an estimate based on the 2005 Assessment, as we do not know what our assessable payroll will be in 2006. Full and successful completion of the COR program could result in a rebate from WorkSafeBC of up to \$190,000.00. Further savings will be realized through reduced assessments achieved by way of a reduction in injuries and shorter claims duration.

CONCLUSION

A full-time BCMSA Coordinator funded through WorkSafeBC assessments would make the BCMSA an official 'industry association', thereby making it eligible for the COR program, saving the City of Burnaby upwards of \$60,000.00 in annual assessments. In addition the BCMSA will be able to improve upon its delivery of safety programs and training to reduce municipal workplace accidents.

Options:

- a) The City of Burnaby supports WorkSafeBC's proposal for a full-time BCMSA Coordinator; and if approved participate in the Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program to realize savings in reduced assessments.
- b) The City of Burnaby opposes WorkSafeBC's proposal for a full-time BCMSA coordinator, continue with volunteer membership in the BCMSA; and work independently to reduce assessments through its own safety initiatives.



Kim A. Munro
Director, Human Resources