
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2008 September 23

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 45000 01
Reference: Elections - General

SUBJECT: CITY REQUESTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

PURPOSE: To seek support from Federal election candidates in Burnaby for issues raised by Council relative to the Federal Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the election candidates in the Burnaby – Douglas and Burnaby – New Westminster Federal Electoral Districts be requested to express their support of the City's requests to the Federal Government outlined in Section 2.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** the election candidates be requested to convey their support for Burnaby's requests to their respective party leaders.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

On 2008 September 8, Council requested that staff prepare a report on the status of outstanding City requests to the Federal Government relating to policies, programs, and funding to address community issues previously identified.

In response to Council's request, this report summarizes, more recent, outstanding requests made of the Federal Government, and the responses received to date. The substantial requests made by Burnaby are in the areas of Federal responsibility and capability relating to immigrant services, World Police Fire Games, affordable housing, childcare, infrastructure, and the environment.

2.0 SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

The City has advocated to the Federal Government on a number of issues that generally fall within areas of Federal responsibility, or require the broader response, resources and support of senior levels of government to adequately address. These issues, which impact or are of importance to Burnaby, include the following:

- 2.1 **Immigrant Multi-Service Hub Facility:** In 2006 January, Council adopted recommendations regarding development of a proposed multi-service hub facility on a City owned site at Canada Way and Edmonds. The proposed facility is intended to address the needs of a growing immigrant and refugee population in Burnaby by providing a common location and shared funding for ESL and literacy classes, settlement services and newcomer integration programs, ethno-specific support groups, community kitchens and food security programs, and skills training and employment enhancement.

The City's proposal involved contribution of a 0.85 acre City owned site for the facility, with an estimated value of \$2.4 million in 2005, and a request for \$11.5 million from the Federal Government for construction of the facility. The proposal also involved discussions with relevant Provincial ministries, the Fraser Health Authority, and the Burnaby School District regarding potential operational partnerships for the facility. The City has made several subsequent requests for Federal support for the hub proposal through letters from the Mayor, staff meetings with senior Federal bureaucrats, and a presentation to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration.

Response: To date, the Federal Government has not indicated that Federal support for the facility would be forthcoming. Rather, the Government advised that it had transferred responsibility for immigrant settlement services to the Province and, furthermore, did not have a capital funding program that could cover the costs of the hub facility construction.

- 2.2 **BC 2009 World Police Fire Games:** The World Police & Fire Games (WPGF) are an international multi-sport event, offering police officers, firefighters, customs and correction officers from around the world an opportunity to showcase athletic excellence in 67 sporting events. Due to a coordinated effort spearheaded by the City of Burnaby, the Games will be hosted in BC in 2009 and Burnaby will host 27 events at our venues. The competition takes place over 10 days and features over 12,000 competitors from 70 countries, the largest number of competitors in any international sporting event. Relatively, the 2008 summer Olympics had 10,500 competitors and the 2006 Commonwealth Games had 5,766 competitors.

The estimated economic spinoff from the Games is \$55 million, as each athletic participant is expected to bring an additional two visitors to the games. The most recent games were hosted in Adelaide Australia, and Australian Governments contributed \$7.0 million to the 2007 WPGF. The Board of the WPGF has asked the Federal Government for \$2.5 million and \$1.5 million in value-in-kind to support the Games. In 2005 the Games were hosted in Quebec City and received a total of \$2.3 million federal funding.

Response: To date, the Games have received confirmation of \$500,000 for the emergency services congress and trade expo from the Federal Government but no further funding has been indicated as being forthcoming, despite the high profile of the Games on the international stage, their importance in promoting Canada for tourism and sport, and the immediate and ongoing economic benefits expected from hosting the event.

- 2.3 **Resolutions on Housing and Homelessness:** In 2006 October, Council adopted a Resolution on Housing and Homelessness that resolved to reject the downloading of costs of social programs and request the assistance of our members of Parliament and the Legislature to demand that both levels of government provide meaningful funding and programs to establish affordable housing initiatives, provide rehab and treatment centres for addiction, provide supportive permanent housing for those suffering mental illness, and provide adequate support for the poor. The resolution was adopted in response to Council's concern with impacts of homelessness, mental illness, addictions, and crime on the community and the inadequate level of Federal and Provincial government responses.

Again in 2007 March, Council adopted resolutions relating to housing and homelessness and called on the Federal Government to respond through the preparation of a National Affordable Housing Strategy, and to establish a direct role for the Federal Government in the development and/or funding of non-market housing using available Federal funding and land to sustain the co-operative housing sector, establish incentives for new rental housing, and provide and protect adequate social housing assets.

Response: To date, the Federal Government has yet to respond to the needs relating to homelessness and affordable housing on the scale and with the resources necessary to adequately address this critical community issue, or to re-establish a significant Federal involvement in housing. Rather, the Federal Government continues to use incremental, issue specific, and time limited funding and programs for housing, rather than the comprehensive and adequately funding approach needed to substantially address the homelessness and housing affordability issue.

- 2.4 **Partnership Housing Site -- 3800 block of Hastings Street:** In 2008 May 5, Council adopted a resolution arising from a further report on housing and homelessness. Council supported a recommendation of the report that the City explore, with the Federal and Provincial governments, the development of a site on Hastings Street for non-market, supportive housing. The site is currently held in partnership between all three levels of government. Council's proposal called for an equal contribution of City, Provincial and Federal land interests in the site to create a parcel to be made available for development of affordable non-profit family housing.

Response: The City has sent letters of inquiry to the Federal and Provincial governments conveying Council's offer to make the subject, jointly held, site available for non-market housing. To date, staff have yet to receive a response from the Federal Government to the City's proposal. A response from the Provincial Government is expected shortly.

- 2.5 **Public Spending on Child Care:** A series of Federal Governments have promised a national child care strategy since the early 1980's. Although the establishment in the early 2000s of two Federal-Provincial funding agreements on early childhood development and child care promised to make a substantial amount of Federal funding available to provinces for supports and programs for young children, the agreements fell short of the universally accessible child care program which had long been envisioned by

child care advocates. Consequently, in 2004 November, Council adopted a resolution urging the Federal government to develop and implement a national child care strategy. However, in 2006, the Federal Government announced that it would cancel the Early Learning and Child Care Agreements, effective 2007. In 2006 May, Council adopted a resolution to join Code Blue, the Canada-wide campaign to protect child care. The campaign was dedicated to ensuring that the Federal Government honoured financial commitments made under the Federal-Provincial Agreements, and that it undertook other necessary measures to maintain and enhance the child care system in Canada. Council further supported the resolution in 2007 March, urging the Federal Government to either reconsider its decision to terminate the Early Learning and Child Care Agreements, or to work with the Provinces to negotiate new child care agreements.

Response: The Federal Government did not reconsider its decision to terminate the Early Learning and Child Care Agreements, nor has it implemented a national child care strategy. Some Federal funding support has been targeted to the child care field, but, for the most part, government funding for child care remains in a state of flux. Universal access to quality affordable and developmentally appropriate child care remains elusive.

- 2.6 ***Support Services for High-Risk Youth:*** In 2007 September, Council adopted recommendations of the Community Development Committee and sent a report about services for high-risk youth to senior levels of government. The report provided information about gaps in services for high-risk youth in Burnaby, and highlighted the need for an increased financial commitment from senior levels of government to address the needs of high-risk youth. Particularly vulnerable groups include lesbian, gay, transgendered, bi-sexual, and questioning (LGTBQ) youth, Aboriginal youth, immigrant and refugee youth, homeless and street-entrenched youth, youth with mental illness and disabilities, and youth living in poverty. Subsequently, two meetings with Burnaby's MPs and MLAs were sponsored by the Burnaby-New Westminster Task Force on the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, with representatives of the Community Policing Committee (CPC) present, to discuss possible responses to the service and support needs of high-risk youth.

Response: No formal response to the issues raised has been received from the Federal Government.

- 2.7 ***Willard / Meadow Area Sanitary Servicing Infrastructure:*** The Willard / Meadow area of the City is comprised of agricultural land and small residential holdings created through an original subdivision that occurred in the early 1900's. As a result of its rural character and early creation, the area was not served by sanitary sewer and remains one of the City's last areas to rely on septic fields. Over the past ten years, the City has requested funds from the Federal Government to implement sanitary infrastructure in the area.

Response: To date, the City has not been successful in securing Federal infrastructure support to address this local service need.

- 2.8 **Oil Spill Cost Recovery:** In January 2007, Council adopted a resolution seeking change to current Provincial and Federal legislation to ensure that the responsible party in an oil spill event is held financially accountable for all costs involved in wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery efforts. The resolution also sought to encourage the exploration of appropriate measures to streamline governmental responsibilities following spill events.

Response: At this time, no new legislation relating to oil spill cost recovery has been put forward by the Federal government. Oil spill cost recovery for wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery continues to be a desired amendment to Federal policy and legislation.

- 2.9 **Burnaby Lake Rejuvenation:** The City has advanced a project to rejuvenate Burnaby Lake through the dredging of about 360,000 m³ of sediment from the lake to re-establish the rowing channel and to enhance the lake environment by creating deeper water, removing intrusive vegetation and enhancing the shorelines. The project cost is estimated to be \$30 Million.

The City has applied for Infrastructure Canada and other Federal infrastructure funding to share the cost of the Burnaby Lake Rejuvenation project between the City, Provincial, and Federal levels of government. In May 2008, the City received a funding commitment \$10 Million from the Province through an announcement made by the Premier. This matched the City contribution of \$10 Million aside from Gaming Funds.

Response: To date, Federal funding support for the project has not been forthcoming.

- 2.10 **Burnaby Urban Development Agreement:** In 2005 July, Council adopted the motion that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Honorable Stephen Owen, Minister of Western Economic Diversification and the Honorable Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services indicating the City's interest in pursuing discussions about the possible initiation of a Burnaby Urban Development Agreement. Urban Development Agreements are a partnership of Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments working in collaboration on broad issues such as inner city revitalization, strengthened innovation, or sustainable economic development. They are intended to coordinate action among government and result in the seamless delivery of programs and services.

Response: The City has not received a positive response to its request for a Burnaby Urban Development Agreement.

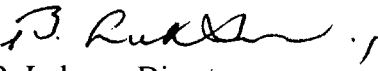
3.0 CONCLUSION

This report summarizes the major issues and topics for which Council has requested a response from the Federal Government. The issues covered include a broad range of topics of importance to Burnaby residents that require Federal support and contribution to address.

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These issues in Burnaby also reflect themes that are of general of importance to many communities across Canada as expressed in a recent report prepared by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) entitled: "*Canadian Cities and Communities: Securing Our Future Election 2008*". The report prepared by the FCM requests Federal support and action to assist Canadian cities and towns with regard to infrastructure, transit, community safety, homelessness and affordable housing, climate change and the economy.

In order to ensure that issues of importance to Burnaby are highlighted and supported by Federal candidates in Burnaby ridings, it is recommended that Council request candidates in the Burnaby – Douglas and Burnaby – New Westminster Federal Electoral Districts to express their support of the City's requests to the Federal Government outlined in Section 2.0 of this report. Further, it is recommended that the election candidates be requested to convey their support to their respective party leaders.


B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

DP/LP:sla

cc: Deputy City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Culture
City Clerk
City Solicitor
OIC RCMP
Fire Chief
Chief Librarian