
FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: NAMING OF THE BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING IN
EDMONDS TOWN CENTRE - "TOMMY DOUGLAS LIBRARY"**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Burnaby Public Library Board and Ms. Shirley Douglas.

REPORT

Burnaby City Council, at its Closed meetings held on 2009 May 04 and 2009 July 06, adopted reports from the Finance and Civic Development Committee regarding the naming and exterior signage for the new Burnaby Public Library building in the Edmonds Town Centre. After a review of the City's naming policies and all naming and signage precedents, Council unanimously approved the dedication of this new civic building as the "Tommy Douglas Library" to honour former Burnaby Member of Parliament Thomas Clement Douglas.

Thomas Clement ("Tommy") Douglas was a Scottish-born Baptist minister who became the admired Premier of Saskatchewan from 1944 - 1961. The most important of his legacies was his advocacy of free, universal medical care, which he introduced in Saskatchewan before the concept was accepted nationally. Douglas achieved national prominence through his election as a Member of Parliament for the Federal riding of Burnaby-Coquitlam from 1962 – 1968. It was often said that Tommy Douglas was "the most influential politician never to be elected Prime Minister". He pursued his radical and popular ideas relentlessly until they became so accepted by Canadians that rival politicians claimed them as their own.

The legacy of this great Canadian is widely-known and honoured across the country. The legacy of his election and service to the citizens of Burnaby from 1962 – 1968 as an ardent advocate and Member of Parliament proved to be a critical time that provided Tommy Douglas with the opportunity to serve with a national profile. The progressive spirit and support of Burnaby's citizens to Douglas during this time played an important role in his ongoing national political success and career. To recognize Tommy Douglas through the naming of the library building at

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: Finance and Civic Development Committee
Re: Tommy Douglas Library
2009 July 20 Page 2

Edmonds, celebrates this national legacy and honours his memory and important connection to the City of Burnaby.

In accordance with the Community Charter, and the City's naming policies, the naming of the new civic library building was conducted in a Closed meeting of Council. This honour has been subsequently reviewed and approved by the Douglas family through Tommy Douglas' daughter Ms. Shirley Douglas. This report has been prepared for the information of Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Jordan
Member

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| Copied to: | City Manager Director Planning & Building Chief Librarian Chief Building Inspector Director Engineering |
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