



Item.....
Meeting..... 2010 Jan 18

COUNCIL REPORT

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2010 January 12
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING
SUBJECT: PROPOSED DISCONTINUATION OF PLANNING INFORMATION PROGRAM
PURPOSE: To propose the discontinuation of the Planning Information Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

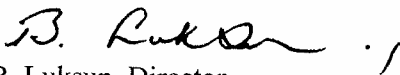
1. **THAT** Council authorize staff to discontinue the Planning Information Program, as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** the Planning Department be directed to notify the current subscribers of the alternative resources available to obtain information provided by the Program, as outlined in this report.

REPORT

The Planning Information Program was initiated by Council in 1974 June 17 in order to provide Burnaby citizens with information on planning and development matters. The Program operates as a subscription service. On registration, subscribers receive printed copies of various Planning publications such as Community Plans, the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw and City maps. In addition, subscribers are provided with information each month on new or revised community plans, public hearing notifications and zoning bylaw amendments. The current fee for this Program is an initial fee of \$160 with a yearly renewal fee of \$80 (inclusive of GST).

Since its inception, the program has had in the order of 20 to 30 subscribers. More recently, there has been a general decline in the number of subscribers with only 8 businesses currently subscribing to the program. In large part, interest in the Program has declined as the information distributed through the program is also readily available on the City's website, through the Burnaby Public Library, community notices and on request to the Department.

Given the limited interest in the Program, its administrative costs and the wider availability of public information on planning matters, staff propose to discontinue the Program. With Council approval, staff would contact current subscribers to advise that the program would continue to the end of their current subscription. Staff would also advise subscribers of the alternate avenues to obtain information currently distributed through the Program through on-line and in-house resources. The Department continues to respond directly to any information inquiries received at the front counter, by telephone, by email and by mail.


B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

PJL/KI:gk
cc: City Clerk
Chief Librarian