



For the Committee of the Whole Meeting December 13 2018

---

**Date:** December 5 2018     **From:** Mayor Helps

**Subject:** Indicate to BCLC that Victoria is not Interested in Hosting a Casino

---

### **Background**

In 2015 Council passed the following motion:

“That Council direct staff to submit a response to the British Columbia Lottery Corporation’s Request for Expressions of Interest indicating that the City of Victoria would consider a casino proposal consistent with City policies and guidelines.”

This motion was in response to a request from BCLC and part of a process of considering a casino in the City of Victoria. All of Council’s motions with regard to this process are laid out in Appendix A.

Since 2015, there have been substantial issues uncovered with regard to money laundering in BC casinos as well as potential links to the trafficking of fentanyl. The BC government is taking this issue seriously and is taking significant action to remedy this situation. Nonetheless prosecution of these offences is difficult. This new information that has arisen since Council’s motion in 2015 has changed the landscape with regard to Victoria’s willingness to host a casino.

Given that BCLC is in the process of taking the next step in terms of its procurement process (see attached letter), it is prudent to indicate to BCLC that Victoria is no longer willing to host a casino in the City of Victoria.

### **Recommendation**

1. That Council direct the Mayor to write to the British Columbia Lottery Corporation to indicate that Victoria is no longer interested in hosting a casino.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps