

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
FROM THE MEETING HELD APRIL 25, 2019

For the Council meeting of April 25, 2019, the Committee recommends the following:

1. CleanBC Grant Application for HVAC Replacement Project at Oaklands Community Centre

That Council approve the City's application for a CleanBC grant for the HVAC Replacement Project at Oaklands Community Centre and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute a contribution agreement should the grant application be successful.

2. Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference - Housing Affordability Motion

That Council forward the following motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for consideration as an emergency resolution at the 2019 annual conference.

Prioritizing Housing Affordability

WHEREAS the National Housing Strategy prioritizes housing solutions for low- and moderate income households, per FCM's recommendations;

WHEREAS renters and homeowners at a range of income levels and in cities and communities of all sizes are increasingly unlikely to be able to access or maintain a home that is affordable to them and meets their needs;

WHEREAS, on average, owning a home is more expensive now than at any time in the last 30 years;

WHEREAS average rent increases are outstripping inflation in many housing markets;

WHEREAS housing affordability pressures are exacerbated by record-high household debt-to income levels in a rising interest-rate environment;

WHEREAS the stability of national and local housing markets has a direct linkage to national and local economic outcomes;

WHEREAS housing affordability is correlated to positive health and socioeconomic outcomes;

WHEREAS the federal government has influence over the affordability of housing, both rented and owned, through the regulation of mortgages and mortgage insurance, taxation levers and its spending power;

WHEREAS the federal government's 2019 budget underscored that housing affordability is a federal concern, and that it has an important role to play in addressing it through the announcement of the First-Time Home Buyer Incentive and enhancements to both the Rental Construction Financing Initiative and Home Buyer's Plan;

RESOLVED that the federal government assess and publically report on the impact of budget 2019 measures designed to improve housing affordability for renters and owners; and

RESOLVED that the federal government work with municipalities through FCM to determine the most effective federal role in improving housing affordability for renters and owners at the local level.

3. Royal McPherson Theatre Society Presentation

That Council receive the report for information.

4. 2018 Financial Statements

That Council approve the 2018 Financial Statements.

5. Carbon Pricing on Corporate Air Travel

That Council:

1. Adopt the principles laid out in this report as the basis for a Carbon Pricing for Air Travel Interim Policy including:
 - a. The rate of \$150 per tonne set as the price on carbon for air travel.
 - b. The carbon price to be funded from the travel budget set for mayor, council and staff in the annual budget.
 - c. The carbon price calculator to be determined by the finance department based on current best practices.
 - d. Council and staff include the price of carbon in requests for travel approval.
 - e. The monies generated from the price on carbon to be deposited into the City's Climate Action Reserve Fund.
 - f. The price on carbon be reviewed as part of the CEEMS program development, and on an annual basis as part of the City's annual update on the Climate Action Program.
 - g. Staff be directed to include the cost of carbon, as an additional line, in the annual expense report.
2. Direct staff to put the principles in #1 into the City's policy template (see attached) as the Carbon Pricing on Corporate Air Travel – Interim Policy.

Motion Arising

That staff report back with potential amendments to the business travel policy to allow for carbon pricing to be considered as a factor in determining the most economical mode for transportation.

6. Future Governance Options for Victoria's Historic Community Theatres

That Council receive for information the report entitled *Future Governance Options for Victoria's Historic Community Theatres*.

7. City of Montreal - Motion for International Accountability Against the Government of Myanmar

MOTION TO CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MYANMAR FOR ITS CRIMES OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE ROHINGYA AND OTHER MINORITIES

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada unanimously adopted M.P. Andrew Leslie's motion on September 20, 2018 recognizing that the crimes committed by Myanmar against the Rohingya constitute genocide;

AND WHEREAS the "cleansing operation" by Myanmar's military caused the exodus of over 725,000 people to flee to Bangladesh creating the world's largest refugee camp and one of the world's worst humanitarian crises;

AND WHEREAS the genocide is on-going with Myanmar continuing its persecution of the remaining Rohingya in Rakhine State;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Myanmar is defiant in its blatant disregard of international norms and standards, imprisoning journalists, denying access to the United Nations Special Rapporteur, and burning down villages of other ethnic groups such as the Kachin, Karen, Shan, and Chin minorities;

AND WHEREAS following the end of World War II and the Holocaust , both Canada as well as Myanmar signed and ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the 'Genocide Convention');

AND WHEREAS Canadian human rights think tanks such as the Montreal Institute of Genocide Studies at Concordia University, the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa have called for Canada to invoke the Genocide Convention;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council urge the Government of Canada without further delay to invoke the Genocide Convention and specifically to engage with like-minded States to pursue the matter before the International Court of Justice in order to hold Myanmar to its obligations and to seek provisional measures and ultimately reparations for the Rohingya people;

THAT City Council urge Canada to exert pressure on Myanmar to release the jailed Reuters journalists, and to allow for unobstructed access to Rakhine State by independent monitors in order to investigate the international crimes committed and to afford protection to remaining Rohingya;

THAT City Council urge the Government of Canada to continue to assist the Government of Bangladesh through multilateral aid in addressing the humanitarian needs of the Rohingya refugees, with particular focus on the needs of women and children, including education.

THAT the City Clerk provide a copy of this motion to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice of the Government of Canada.

8. Climate Action through a Major Expansion of Public Transit Ridership

That Council endorses the following resolution and directs staff to forward copies to members of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and to the Mayors and Councils of local governments in the Capital Region by April 26, 2019, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

Resolution: Climate Action through a Major Expansion of Public Transit Ridership

WHEREAS local governments in the Capital Region have declared a climate emergency, pledging to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 to avoid the worst consequences of global warming;

AND WHEREAS emissions from transportation generate the majority of community-based emissions within the region, meaning that switching from private vehicles to public transit has the potential to make a very large impact in achieving carbon neutrality;

AND WHEREAS forward-looking jurisdictions around the world from Kingston, Ontario to Luxembourg and Estonia are eliminating user-fee barriers to public transit ridership, with public transit services paid through the tax system rather than at the fare box.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria calls on the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and BC Transit to:

1. Embrace determined climate leadership through a major expansion of public transit ridership in the Capital Region, focused on the phasing out of user fees and a substantial improvement in service levels and fleet electrification.
2. Begin implementing this climate-action policy with a pilot programme in the 2020 budget eliminating user fees for people 18 years of age and younger, replacing revenues currently generated through fares with adjustments to provincial transfers and the property tax requisition.
3. Develop an implementation plan for a pilot programme to eliminate user fees for all riders within the Capital Region as a form of climate action, including enhanced service levels, enhanced transit priority including an extensive network of bus lanes, and fleet expansion to meet increased demand, in conjunction with fleet electrification.