

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
FROM THE MEETING HELD MAY 16, 2019

For the Council meeting of May 23, 2019, the Committee recommends the following:

1. Restoring Provincial Support for Libraries

WHEREAS libraries are a social justice equalizer that provide universal access to information and learning materials irrespective of income levels;

WHEREAS libraries are now so much more than books, building community and a sense of inclusion;

WHEREAS restoring funding to libraries supports the BC Government's agenda to eliminate poverty, improve access to education, and address social justice in BC;

WHEREAS funding rates have been frozen since 2009 and inflationary costs have increasingly been put on municipal property tax payers which is a regressive approach to funding public libraries;

WHEREAS municipalities face downloading from upper levels of government and have few tools to raise funds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request the Mayor write to the Minister of Education, the Premier, and all local MLAs strongly advocating for the restoration of library funding to a level that reflects both inflationary cost increases since 2009 and the value of this system to the Province.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in the Capital Regional District and across BC requesting their favourable consideration.

2. Late Night Program Update

1. That Council receive this report for information.
2. That Council direct staff to reach out to the "May I?" Project, the Retail Action Network, and the Good Night Out project to invite them to participate in the Late Night Advisory Committee, and connect with downtown service providers and others to include individuals from marginalized communities, including but not limited to the street-involved community, international students, racialized communities, and the LGBTQI+ community.

3. Transitioning from Commercial Horse-Drawn Carriage Operations to E-Carriages

That Council refers the following resolution to the next Quarterly Update, with staff providing information on the resource implications of proceeding with the action outlined:

1. That Council amends the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 to include the new 2020 action: "Develop regulations to phase out commercial horse-drawn carriage operations on city streets by 2023, providing adequate notice to operators, employees and members of the public."
2. The Council encourages collaboration between industry, the City and provincial regulators to pursue innovation in electric-powered vehicles for hire, to provide ongoing and enhanced opportunities for experiential tourism, employment and economic development.
3. That Council refers the recommendations in the letter received by Council on May 28, 2018 and July 25, 2018, to staff to inform revisions to regulations and policies between now and 2023.