



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 5, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** August 30, 2019
From: Mayor Helps
Subject: Attendance at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit, New York, Sept 20-24

BACKGROUND

In response to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report in October 2018, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called a Climate Action Summit to be held in New York on September 23rd. The theme of the Summit is "A Race We Can Win."

I recently received an invitation from the Executive Secretary, Under-Secretary-General Olga Algayerova to attend this conference for a very specific purpose. Victoria seems to have caught global attention for our sustainability work.

Here is some relevant content from the invitation letter:

"I would like to invite you to join me at the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Change Action Summit in New York City on 23 September 2019, to support the launch of my campaign for accelerated action against climate change.

"I would be honoured if you would join me as one of the first mayors to make the pledge and a pioneer of this initiative, which will then be open for other mayors to join after the Climate Change Action Summit. I believe there is a lot we can learn from the progress your city has already achieved in this area, and I would like to help you share this achievement with other cities and allow them to learn from it."

The details of the initiative have been embargoed by the UN until an event in New York on September 21st at which I have been invited to speak. The City will issue a press release after that event.

Further and more recently, I have also been invited by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate to speak at their events in New York on the weekend of September 21-22 as a lead up to the UN Secretary General's Summit.

Both of these opportunities are important in furthering Victoria's global reputation as a climate and urban sustainability leader, increasing Victoria's global fluency on climate issues, and learning from other cities.

In the 2019 budget, Council allocated \$15,000 for conference attendance for the Mayor. Including costs for me to participate in UBCM in September, this budget will have been met. The opportunity

to participate in the UN Secretary General's Conference was unanticipated in my travel and conference attendance planning for the year.

Given that it is an exciting and important initiative in which Victoria has been included, it is recommended that funding be allocated from the contingency budget to cover this expenditure.

The costs are as follows:

Registration	\$ 0.00
Transportation - airfare	\$ 1426.90
Accommodation	\$ 2027.08
Incidentals	
Taxi/bus	\$ 200
Meals	\$ 250
Carbon Offset Fee	\$ 193.50

Approximate total: **\$ 4097.48**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council authorize the attendance and associated costs from the contingency budget for Mayor Lisa Helps to attend the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit New York City and related events, Sept 20-24, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor