



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Feb. 18th, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: Feb 11th, 2021

From: Councillor Loveday

Subject: Advocacy for Right to Repair Legislation

Background:

The following resolution was drafted by the Zero Waste and Circular Economy Working Group of the Climate Caucus and aligns with the City of Victoria’s Climate Leadership Plan and the recently adopted Zero Waste Victoria plan. Climate Caucus is a non-partisan network of 300+ local elected climate leaders driving system change to transform our communities in ten years. The resolution calls for Council to send a motion to AVICC and UBCM advocating for the Province of BC to develop Right to Repair legislation.

Repair is an important aspect of the circular economy concerned with extending the longevity of items and reducing the need to replace items. The circular economy is a key part in addressing climate change. A circular economy also becomes increasingly important as resources become scarce and land degradation persists.

In a May 2019 online survey, 75% of Canadians said they would support ‘Right to Repair’ legislation (survey conducted by Innovative Research Group for OpenMedia and iFixIt). Additionally, a study done by US PIRG in the States suggests that repair could reduce household spending on electronics and appliances by 22%, the equivalent of 330 USD/year for a family.

Right to repair legislation has been passed in the European Union and introduced in Ontario, Quebec, and 20 states in the United States. In November 2020, the EU adopted the Circular Economy Action Plan, a main block of the European Green Deal. This plan includes additional right to repair legislation for 2021 that will include personal electronics such as computers and handheld devices. On January 1, 2021, France also adopted a Repair Index (Indice de réparabilité) that will require certain products sold in France to include a repairability rating on a scale from 1-10, with 10 indicating a device with the best repairability.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the following resolution and submit this resolution for consideration at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of BC Municipalities:

Whereas the longevity of items is decreasing because manufacturers are deliberately designing products to be disposable;

And whereas citizens and businesses are deterred from repairing their belongings by companies that claim ownership over the intellectual property in their products, fail to provide parts or other aspects that make it hard to repair items;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to draft and enact Right to Repair legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loveday', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Loveday