



**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 21, 2022**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 15, 2022  
**From:** Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Sharmarke Dubow  
**Subject:** Advocacy regarding Detention of Immigrants in Provincial Jails

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**Recommendation:**

That Council endorses the following resolution from the City of Vancouver and directs staff to forward copies to the Premier of British Columbia, the Solicitor General of British Columbia, Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies on Vancouver Island, and Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) member local governments, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

*Resolution: Detention of Immigrants in Provincial Jails*

WHEREAS The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has used Provincial prisons to detain tens of thousands of migrants while they await the resolution of their immigration or refugee matters, 94 per cent of whom are held for administrative reasons posing no risk to the public and include children, survivors of trauma or persecution, and persons with disabilities including mental health conditions;

AND WHEREAS In a March 2022 submission to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner stated that in the current immigration detention system people with disabilities and racialized people experience harsher treatment and are detained for longer periods of time, and there is strong evidence that current practices contravene BC's Human Rights Code and international human rights conventions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to terminate its immigration detention agreement with the Canada Border Services Agency, stop incarcerating immigration detainees in BC jails, and call on the federal government to do away with immigration detention altogether.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt".

Councillor Isitt

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sharmarke Dubow".

Councillor Dubow

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution adopted by Vancouver City Council, June 8, 2022
2. Submission from the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, March 2022