



## Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 23, 2019

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**Date:** May 17, 2019  
**From:** Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe, Councillor Marianne Alto and Councillor Jeremy Loveday  
**Subject:** Supporting the Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act Bill S238

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### Recommendation:

Whereas:

1. The Canadian Government has banned "shark finning" in Canadian waters since 1994 as has the United States (2009) and the European Community (2003), but the sale and importation of shark fins continues in cities across Canada and the world;
2. In July 2012, Victoria City Council unanimously passed a motion put forward by Councillor Thornton-Joe and seconded by then Councillor Lisa Helps that Council endorse the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) resolution regarding Shark Fins and Related Products Bill C-380.
3. In March 2014 the motion was narrowly defeated in Parliament by 143 nays to 138 yeas.
4. On April 11, 2017, Senator Michael MacDonald introduced Bill S-238, "An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (importation of shark fins)", also referred to as "The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act". This Bill will create a law that will prohibit the inhumane act of shark finning in Canada and ban the importation of shark fins that have been harvested through shark finning
5. In the last two years, Toronto and Vancouver City Council passed a motion expressing its support to the Prime Minister and Government of Canada for Bill S238, The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act;
6. Shark finning is a wasteful, inhumane practice that involves cutting off a shark's fins and then tossing the still-live shark back overboard to drown, bleed to death, or be eaten alive by other animals. Each year, up to 73 million sharks are killed primarily for their fins, threatening one-third of open ocean sharks with extinction;
7. A ban on the importation of shark fin would have a significant impact on the shark fin industry in Canada and would reduce the demand for shark fin imports and subsequently the practice

of shark finning. Endorsing Bill S-238 will demonstrate Council's commitment to protecting shark populations and help prevent the extinction of shark species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council endorse Bill S238, The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act expressing its support for protecting shark populations and the role they play in our marine ecosystems by writing to the Prime Minister immediately, as the vote will be taken in Parliament in June; and

FURTHER THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, forward this motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities asking them to encourage other municipalities to express their support for Bill S-238.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Thornton-Joe



Councillor Alto



Councillor Loveday