



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the Meeting of January 22, 2015

To: Governance and Priorities Committee
From: Rob Woodland, Director, Legislative and Regulatory Services
Subject: Resolution Deadlines for FCM and AVICC/UBCM

Date: January 9, 2015

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify Resolutions Council may wish to forward to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) in advance of the deadlines for consideration at their respective Annual General Meetings.

Background

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

FCM is a national advocacy group that works on behalf of over 2,000 municipalities across Canada. The organization represents the interests of local governments on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction, such as broad social and infrastructure issues affecting communities.

Each year at the FCM conference members set the policy that guides the organization's advocacy work. The deadline for submitting Resolutions for the March board meeting and Annual Conference is **January 25, 2015**. Appropriate Resolutions passed on January 22 should be forwarded to the Council meeting for ratification that same night before being provided to FCM.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) / Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)

The UBCM is the provincial advocacy group for local governments in BC. The organization addresses issues that fall under the legislative jurisdiction of the Province, with a focus on policy development and implementation. As local governments derive their authorities from the Province, the issues dealt with by UBCM tend to be aligned and relevant to the operational interests of a municipality.

The AVICC is the UBCM area association for the City of Victoria. Resolutions are generally considered at the AVICC AGM in early April where they can be endorsed and forwarded to the UBCM Convention in September for consideration by the entire membership. The UBCM urges members to submit their resolutions first to Area Associations for consideration. Resolutions passed at convention guide the organizations policy and advocacy work.

The deadline for submitting Resolutions for the AVICC meeting is **February 23, 2015**. Should other Resolutions be identified after February 23, the deadline for submission directly to UBCM is **June 30, 2015**. Resolutions received after this date may be accepted as emergency resolutions if the topic has arisen since the June 30 deadline.

Issues & Analysis

Council has adopted one Resolution for consideration by FCM and AVICC/UBCM on the Right to a Healthy Environment. The Resolution has been reframed and reformatted to adhere to the format and style required by FCM, and is attached as Appendix B.

Council may consider additional Resolutions. In the past, time has been allocated on the agenda of a regularly scheduled GPC meeting to review potential Resolutions for submission to FCM and AVICC/UBCM. Even though the FCM deadline will have passed, time could be set aside at the February 12 GPC meeting if Council wished to have another opportunity to bring forward new Resolutions for AVICC/UBCM.

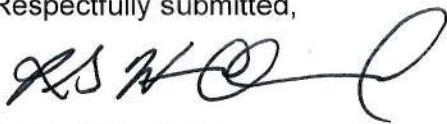
Resolutions proposed for FCM or AVICC/UBCM should be brought up as new business and considered and adopted by Council. Staff are available to assist with the formatting of the motion to ensure it meets the required standard.

Recommendation

That Council:

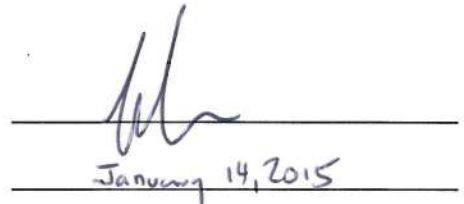
1. Adopt the proposed Resolution "Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment", as presented in Appendix B, and direct that the motion be sent to Council for consideration at the January 22 meeting.
2. Direct staff to forward the Resolution "Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment" to the FCM and AVICC/UBCM.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Woodland
Director, Legislative and Regulatory Services

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Date: January 14, 2015

Attachments:

Appendix A: Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment – *passed by Council*
Appendix B: Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment – *proposed for FCM*

Appendix A (Council's Resolution)

Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment

WHEREAS the David Suzuki Foundation Blue Dot Tour has inspired many Canadians to request that the right to a healthy environment be enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedom through support of the following motion;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria's Official Community Plan (2012) provides a strong policy foundation to pursue actions and initiatives that contribute toward a healthy environment;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria has the opportunity to be the first jurisdiction on Vancouver Island to endorse the Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment, joining other Canadian cities in re-affirming our commitment to social, environmental and economic sustainability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria endorses the following declaration:

“All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

The right to breathe clean air;

The right to drink clean water;

The right to consume safe food;

The right to access nature;

The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment;

The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment.

The City of Victoria has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights.

The City of Victoria shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the City of Victoria shall take cost-effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City of Victoria to postpone such measures.

The City of Victoria shall apply full-cost accounting: when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the City of Victoria will consider costs to human health and the environment.

By December 31st, 2015, the City of Victoria will consider objectives, targets, timelines and actions within its jurisdiction to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including options to:

- Ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens within the municipality, preventing the development of pollution “hot spots”;
- Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;
- Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- Responsibly increase density;
- Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
- Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
- Promote the availability of safe foods;

- Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
- Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods.

The City of Victoria shall review these objectives, targets, timelines and actions every five (5) years, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration.

The City of Victoria shall consult with residents as part of this process.”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council forward this resolution to the annual meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and member local governments, requesting favourable consideration by local councils and by delegates at the 2015 annual meetings of these associations.

Appendix B (Proposed Resolution for FCM)

Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment

City of Victoria

WHEREAS, The environment and its protection are important aspects and cause for pride for all Canadians; and

WHEREAS, We see ourselves as world leaders when it comes to social justice and the environment but the reality is we're falling behind the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, All levels of government have the responsibility, within their own jurisdictions, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights; and

WHEREAS, The David Suzuki Foundation Blue Dot Tour has inspired many Canadians to request that the right to a healthy environment be enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedom; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities endorses the following declaration and supports it being adopted by all member municipalities

"All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

The right to breathe clean air;

The right to drink clean water;

The right to consume safe food;

The right to access nature;

The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment; and

The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment."; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCM campaign to amend the Charter of Rights and Freedom to include the right to a healthy environment.