



Council Member Motion
For the Council Meeting of September 8, 2016

Date: September 1, 2016

From: Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Local Government Consultation on Trans-Pacific Partnership

Background:

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a proposed multi-lateral trade and investment agreement that involves 12 countries in the Pacific Rim. Canada has participated in negotiations since 2012.

Civil society organizations including the Council of Canadians have expressed concern over the implications of the TPP on democratic governance, local procurement practices, worker rights, environmental regulations, the agricultural sector, social programs such as Medicare, and regulation of financial institutions. Citizen objections to the TPP also centre on the process, with an apparent lack of transparency in the negotiations and Canada's role within these negotiations.

In 2012, the City of Victoria placed itself on record calling on the Government of Canada to guarantee municipal autonomy in the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and provide the opportunity for municipalities to be exempted from the provisions of the agreement relating to public services (see Appendix 1).

It is therefore recommended that the City of Victoria place itself on record requesting that the Government of Canada provide for meaningful consultation with local government and the public on the draft terms of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, to ensure that local government autonomy is recognized and protected prior to any further steps being taken toward Canada becoming a signatory to this agreement.

Recommendation:

That Council request that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Prime Minister of Canada, requesting that the Government of Canada undertake meaningful consultation with local government on the draft terms of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, to ensure that local government autonomy is recognized and protected prior to any further steps being taken toward Canada becoming a signatory to this agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Councillor Ben Isitt

Attachment:
Council Resolution on Canada-European Union Comprehensive Trade Agreement (2012)

2. That BC Transit continues to pursue provincial funding for the implementation of rapid transit on the Douglas corridor.
3. That Council request BC Transit to make the Downtown to Uptown phase of rapid transit the first priority for the route.
4. That BC Transit obtains funding for analysis and interim measures which result in near-term improvements to transit travel times.
5. That Victoria staff work with BC Transit, Saanich, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on the development and implementation of interim measures to improve transit operations on the Douglas corridor.

Carried Unanimously

2. Motion – Canada – European Union Comprehensive Trade Agreement and its Impact on the City of Victoria

It was moved by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Council endorse the following motion:

WHEREAS the Canadian government will soon conclude negotiations with the European Union (EU) on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); and

WHEREAS the City of Victoria recognizes the importance of trade to local, provincial, territorial and national economies; and

WHEREAS, as an integral part of the CETA, the EU is requiring full access to municipal procurement; and

WHEREAS the CETA would increase municipal administrative costs by requiring additional reporting and contract management; and

WHEREAS the CETA, unlike previous international trade agreements, explicitly includes access to water rights and services; and

WHEREAS disputes by private firms against local policy decisions could be taken before private trade tribunals that lack transparency and have the authority to impose fines; and

WHEREAS these and other clauses of the CETA diminish the capacity of local government to hire or buy locally so as to use public spending as a tool for local economic development; and

WHEREAS the CETA will thus limit the powers of local governments to act in the best interest of its residents; and

WHEREAS it is not the international norm for municipal governments to be covered by procurement agreements such as the one proposed in the CETA; and

WHEREAS the federation of Canadian Municipalities has recently secured Federal Government support for seven fair trade principles; therefore

BE IT THUS RESOLVED THAT:

1. City Council ask the Province of British Columbia for a clear, permanent exemption for the City of Victoria from the Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); and
2. City Council ask the Federal Government to protect the autonomous powers of the City of Victoria - to create local jobs, protect the environment, and provide services and programs as it sees fit - from any restrictions to those powers in the CETA; and
3. City Council ask the Federal Government to further exempt from the CETA any municipality that so requests; and
4. City Council encourage and support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in its work with the Federal Government to change the terms of the draft CETA to protect the autonomy of municipal governments.

Carried Unanimously

3. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Election to the National Board of Directors

It was moved by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Council endorse the following motion:

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS FCM's National Board of Directors is comprised of elected municipal officials from all regions and sizes of communities to form a broad base of support and provide FCM with the prestige required to carry the municipal message to the federal government; and

WHEREAS FCM's 75th Annual Conference and Municipal Expo will take place June 1 to 4, 2012, during which the Annual General Meeting will be held and followed by the election of FCM's National Board of Directors; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the City of Victoria, British Columbia endorse Councillor Chris Coleman to stand for election as Third Vice-President of the FCM's National Board of Directors; and



Victoria Chapter of The Council of Canadians

August 25, 2015

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

On Thursday, Sept. 8th, 2016 the Victoria Chapter of The Council of Canadians we will be presenting our concerns regarding the **Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)** and the effect it will have on the ability of local governments to serve their constituents.

As details of the proposed agreement emerge, citizens and elected officials are beginning to have concerns with the TPP that they are communicating to the federal government.

Some of the concerns that have been raised include the following:

- **The TPP has been negotiated in complete secrecy**
- **The TPP is not really a trade agreement**
- **It may violate our most fundamental principles of democracy**
- **The TPP will likely impact city planning, a major function of city government**
- **Increase global warming and costly extreme weather events**
- **Create a new regulatory bureaucracy that overrides local laws**
- **May rob local government of the ability to protect local jobs**
- **Could inflate healthcare costs**

For a quick preview of the TPP, we ask you and council members to view the following link by Senator Elizabeth Warren on the TPP. Her five-minute presentation is crucial and very applicable to Canada. In fact she cites examples particular to Canada on two occasions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmLHwZkonwY>

Please also find enclosed information that includes: the spring 2016 magazine Canadian Perspectives and three information items for your perusal.

You are also invited to visit our website for more information on the TPP:

www.canadians.org/tpp

Related material:

<http://canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/TPP-factsheet-0416.pdf>

<http://canadians.org/sites/default/files/tpp-and-you-infographic.pdf>

<http://canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/cp-spring16-trade.pdf>

<http://canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/cp-spring16.pdf>

Additional information will be emailed to you by Thursday, Sept. 1st, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ted Woynillowicz, Co-chair Victoria Chapter of the Council of Canadians

Neil Mussell, Board Member, Victoria Chapter of The Council of Canadians

Contact: Ted at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]