



Office of the Mayor

May 25, 2016

Raymond Louie, President
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3

Dear Mr. Louie:

Support for the City of Victoria's January 14, 2016 FCM Resolution concerning a Federal Bill of Environmental Rights

The City of Victoria Council endorsed a resolution asking that the Government of Canada enact federal environmental rights legislation and that this motion be considered at the upcoming FCM convention in June. The Municipality of Jasper Council supports this resolution.

Jasper is a small, friendly and sustainable community set in the natural splendor of Jasper National Park.

Jasper strives to be a leader in sound environmental practices and sustainable tourism. The Municipality of Jasper Council works to ensure that Jasper is a safe and healthy community.

The Municipality of Jasper is unique because of its location within a national park. Governance is shared between the Municipality of Jasper and the Parks Canada Agency. The Specialized Municipality of Jasper was formed by the Province of Alberta on July 20, 2001. The Municipality of Jasper operates under an agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage, giving it authorities over all municipal matters with the exception of land use planning, development, and environmental matters.

On May 19, 2015 the Municipality of Jasper (MOJ) Council voted unanimously in favour of the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that Council endorse the following resolution:

Whereas there is a growing movement in Canada to have the right to a healthy environment enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom; and

Whereas the Municipality of Jasper 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 Jasper Community Sustainability Plan (2011) provides a strong policy foundation to pursue actions and initiatives that contribute toward a healthy environment; and

Whereas the Municipality of Jasper does not have jurisdictional authority over land use, planning and development, or environmental matters as stated in the Agreement for the Establishment of Local Government in the Town of Jasper (2001), Council, supports the following declaration:

All Canadians 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."*

Jasper's Council subsequently received a request from the City of Victoria staff asking for support of the resolution that the City of Victoria Council passed on January 14, 2016 with regard to the FCM Resolution – Federal Bill of Environmental Rights. On April 19, 2016 the MOJ Council passed a motion supporting the City of Victoria's request to have the Government of Canada enact federal environmental rights legislation considered by delegates at the 2016 annual FCM convention in Winnipeg, rather than be referred to a Directors at a Board meeting.

The Municipality of Jasper Council agrees that debate among representatives from all local governments at the FCM conference on this issue would be of value.

Sincerely,



Richard Ireland
Mayor of Jasper
mydocuments/FCM/Victoria resolution

c.c. Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

MAYOR'S OFFICE

JUN 21 2016

VICTORIA, B.C.