

February 23, 2015

File No. 01-0230-40

SECTION 2 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

City Manager
Dir. Planning & Building
Environment Committee

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment

At the Regular Council meeting of February 10, 2015, Port Moody City Council passed the following resolution:

“WHEREAS municipalities and regional districts are the governments nearest to people and the natural environment, and therefore share a deep concern for the welfare of the natural environment and understand that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the health of individuals, families, future generations and communities;

AND WHEREAS fostering the environmental well-being of the community is a municipal purpose under section 7(d) of the *Community Charter* and a regional district purpose under section 2(d) of the *Local Government Act*;

The Council of the City of Port Moody declares that:

1. every resident has the right to live in a healthy environment, including the right to:
 - a. breathe clean air,
 - b. drink clean water,
 - c. consume safe food,
 - d. access nature,
 - e. know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment, and
 - f. participate in decision making that will affect the environment;
2. The City of Port Moody has the authority, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights;
3. The City of Port Moody will consider the precautionary principle when making decisions: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the City of Port Moody will consider cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens, and the absence of full scientific certainty will not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City of Port Moody to postpone such measures;

4. The City of Port Moody will apply full cost accounting when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the City of Port Moody will consider costs to human health and the environment;
5. By 2016, the City of Port Moody will specify objectives, targets, timelines and actions the City of Port Moody will consider, within its jurisdiction, to address the residents' right to a healthy environment under section 1, including priority actions to:
 - a. Ensure infrastructure and development projects of the City of Port Moody and private sector respect the objective of protecting the environment, including air quality;
 - b. address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
 - c. prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
 - d. prioritize infrastructure and protected water sources for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
 - e. reduce solid waste and promote recycling, re-use and composting;
 - f. establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods, and protect and conserve nature in public open spaces;
6. The City of Port Moody will review the objectives, targets, timelines and actions of its healthy environment policy every five (5) years, and measure progress toward fulfilling this Declaration; and
7. The City of Port Moody will consult with residents as part of this process.

AND THAT this declaration be forwarded to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association, the Union of BC Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and member local governments, requesting favourable consideration by local councils and by delegates at the 2015 annual general meetings of these associations.”

The City of Port Moody has forwarded this resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA), the Union of British Columbian Municipalities (UBCM), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for discussion at their 2015 Conference/Convention. We respectfully request that your Council favourably support this initiative when it comes forth for discussion. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 604-469-4505.

Yours truly,

Kelly Ridley
Manager of Legislative Support