
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2015 FEBRUARY 19

FROM: DEPUTY CITY CLERK

FILE: 02410-20

SUBJECT: BLUE DOT CAMPAIGN
(ITEM 3(A), DELEGATION, COUNCIL MEETING 2015 FEBRUARY 16)

At the 2015 February 16 Council meeting, Kim Fink-Jensen, Kate Fink-Jensen and Naomi Cech appeared as a delegation to provide an overview of the Blue Dot Campaign and request the City of Burnaby consider passing a "Burnaby Municipal Declaration To The Right To A Healthy Environment".

Arising from discussion, Council adopted the following resolution:

Blue Dot Campaign

WHEREAS the Blue Dot movement recognizes Canadian citizens' rights to a healthy environment and calls upon the Provinces of Canada to support amendment of the Canadian Constitution, Charter of Rights and Freedoms ("the Charter") to enshrine these rights; and

WHEREAS recognition of constitutional environmental rights has been undertaken by many nations worldwide; and

WHEREAS a healthy environment supports human health and prosperity; and

WHEREAS environmental protection, alongside social and economic sustainability, is a fundamental characteristic of Burnaby and the City of Burnaby is undertaking a broad citizen-based process to further demonstrate global leadership in protecting and regenerating ecosystems, supporting a healthy and prosperous community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council declare Burnaby a Blue Dot Community in support of the movement, for the Provincial and Federal governments to enshrine rights to a healthy environment in the Charter."

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Council further requested the resolution as well as the declaration provided by the delegation be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information.

A copy of the declaration is provided as an attachment.

Sid Cleave
Deputy City Clerk

SC:rj

Burnaby Municipal Declaration The Right To A Healthy Environment

Whereas the CITY OF BURNABY understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

The CITY OF BURNABY finds and declares that:

1. 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.

2. The CITY OF BURNABY has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfil and promote these rights.
3. The CITY OF BURNABY shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the CITY OF BURNABY 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 MUNICIPALITY to postpone such measures.
4. The CITY OF BURNABY shall apply full cost accounting: when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the CITY OF BURNABY will consider costs to human health and the environment.
5. By 2015, the CITY OF BURNABY shall specify objectives, targets and time lines and actions the MUNICIPALITY will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfil residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:
 - a. Ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens within the City of Burnaby, preventing the development of pollution "hot spots";
 - b. Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;

- c. Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- d. Responsibly increase density;
- e. Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
- f. Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
- g. Promote the availability of safe foods;
- h. Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
- i. Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods.

The CITY OF BURNABY shall review the objectives, targets, time lines and actions every five (5) years, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration.

The CITY OF BURNABY shall consult with residents as part of this process