

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE CITY OF BURNABY EQUITY POLICY

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council revise the Equity Policy to include “caste” as a protected category in the Equity Policy Framework.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council, at its meeting held on April 5, 2023, received correspondence from the Chetna Association of Canada, advising that on February 21, 2023, the City of Seattle banned caste-based discrimination in businesses and other public settings.

The Committee expressed concern that casteism, a social hierarchy passed down through families that has been outlawed in India since 1948, is still being practiced in Canada and where some South Asian populations exist.

Arising from discussion, the Committee passed a motion requesting Council include “caste” as a protected category in the existing Equity Policy framework.

As the Equity Policy is currently under review by Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) staff, a report and updated policy will be brought forward to Council as soon as practicable.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Richard T. Lee
Vice Chair