

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCILLORS  
**FROM:** SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
**SUBJECT:** **NOM: SOCIAL CHANGE AWARDS (CITY AWARDS PROGRAM REVIEW)**  
**PURPOSE:** To provide information regarding the Notice of Motion (NOM) from the Social Planning Committee that was introduced and subsequently amended by the Committee for staff to be directed to review the current awards program with a social change lens or establish a new category related to social change.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** staff be directed to review and modernize the awards that the City of Burnaby issues and explore adding a social change lens to existing awards or establishing a new category of social change awards with the intention of recognizing and uplifting important work that benefits vulnerable community members.

### **1.0 POLICY SECTION**

The Social Change Awards align with and are supported by the following Council-adopted policies and plans/strategies: *Equity Policy* (2020), *Corporate Strategic Plan* (2022) and the *Social Sustainability Strategy* (2011).

Awards and decisions of award recipients are administered by the Executive Committee of Council, therefore should Council proceed with the recommendation above to direct staff on the Awards Program review, a report will be provided to the Executive Committee of Council initially for consultation and advisory to staff.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

At the November 15, 2023, Social Planning Committee meeting, a discussion was held regarding the establishment of Social Change Awards for the City of Burnaby. As the City of Burnaby has several awards and community recognition initiatives including the Kushiro Cup, Local Heroes, Environmental, and Youth Week Citizenship Awards, Committee members identified a potential gap in recognizing local groups and residents for their work towards advancing social change in Burnaby.

### **3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

At the Social Planning Committee meeting held on January 24, 2024, Councillor Santiago brought forward a Notice of Motion requested from a resident representative regarding investigating the creation of Social Change Awards. The Notice of Motion was

introduced and further amended to consider all award programs at the City, and is brought forward for Council's consideration and decision.

It was brought up that these potential Social Change Awards criteria could be developed under the Terms of Reference of the Social Planning Committee similar to the Environmental Awards and the Environment Committee, but also noted the Executive Committee of Council is Council's awarding committee as awards are held in closed sessions under the section 90(1)(a) of the *Community Charter*.

The recommendation in this Committee to Council cover report reflects the final motion as amended, for Council's consideration and approval.

#### **4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable at this time.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Not Applicable at this time.

On behalf of the Social Planning Committee,

Councillor Gu, Chair

Councillor Santiago, Vice Chair

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – NOM: Social Change Awards