

# RR-1(b)(ii)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - FEBRUARY 5, 2002  
MOTION B.1

Prior to discussion on the following two Motions on Notice, the Chair ruled the Motions out of order at this time due to Council's motion of January 24, 2002, on this matter.

Councillor Bass challenged the decision of the Chair.

The Chair then put the question:

Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?

(Councillors Bass and Louis opposed)

A two-thirds majority of those present is required to overrule the decision of the Chair. Therefore, the decision of the Chair was SUSTAINED.

## 1. **Provincial Cuts to Income and Hardship Assistance** (File 1263)

At the Council meeting of January 22, 2002, Councillor Louis submitted the following Notice of Motion which was recognized by the Chair:

WHEREAS, the provincial government recently announced that income or hardship assistance will be denied to thousands of people in British Columbia who are in dire financial need;

AND WHEREAS, people in dire financial need include refugee claimants, many youths between 19-and 21-years-of-age, people convicted of welfare fraud, and people who have been on income assistance for more than two years during the last five years;

AND WHEREAS, many of the people who will be denied income or hardship assistance live in Vancouver;

AND WHEREAS, people who will be denied income or hardship assistance have no where to turn except to charities and/or the streets;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed provincial government cuts to income or hardship assistance will:

- cause great suffering and hardship to people affected, and
- increase the number of people who have to beg and sleep on Vancouver's streets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Vancouver City Council demand the provincial government cancel its plans to deny income and hardship assistance to people in dire need.

**2. Provincial Government's Closure of the Residential Tenancy Office (File 1263)**

At the Council meeting of January 22, 2002, Councillor Bass submitted the following Notice of Motion which was recognized by the Chair:

WHEREAS, the provincial government has announced the closure of the Vancouver Residential Tenancy Office as of March 31, 2002;

AND WHEREAS, according to the 1996 Census, close to 60 percent of Vancouver's citizens are tenants who rent their homes;

AND WHEREAS, according to the 1996 Census, 85 percent of West End residents, where the Residential Tenancy Office is located, are tenants - the largest concentration of tenants in the province;

AND WHEREAS, the closure of the Vancouver Residential Tenancy Office will negatively impact access to essential services for all Vancouver tenants and landlords as they will now have to travel to Burnaby for dispute resolution services and to get information about their rights and responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS, traveling to Burnaby will present a real obstacle for many tenants due to lack of capacity, financial resources, and inability to take protracted time off work and will result in more tenants becoming vulnerable to illegal rent increases and evictions, potentially adding to the risk of homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City of Vancouver City Council write to the Honourable Rich Coleman, Solicitor General and responsible for Residential Tenancy, expressing grave concern about the negative impacts on tenants and landlords of the closing of the Vancouver Residential Tenancy Office, and urging the province to keep this office open.