

B.5

MOTION ON NOTICE

5. Climate Change (VanRIMS No. 11-2000-14)

MOVER: Councillor Heather Deal

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states:

- That eleven of the past twelve years rank among the twelve warmest years since 1850,
- That warming of the global climate is “unequivocal”,
- That “it is very likely that anthropogenic greenhouse gas increases caused most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century”
- And that “climate processes, feedbacks, and their timescales imply that anthropogenic warming and sea level rise would continue for centuries even if greenhouse gas concentrations were to be stabilized”;

AND WHEREAS the coast of British Columbia has seen its temperature rise by 0.6% over the past 100 years;

AND WHEREAS the Environment Protection Division of the BC Ministry of the Environment stated that the sea level has increased during the 20th century at a rate 10 times faster than the previous 3,000 years;

AND WHEREAS a sea-level rise would result in increased coastal erosion, flooding, and a resulting loss of coastal wetlands;

And WHEREAS sea-level rise threatens drainage, sewer and other coastal infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS, the economic importance of both the Port of Vancouver and Vancouver’s recreational/residential waterfront makes Vancouver especially vulnerable to impacts from sea-level rise in combination with storm surge events resulting from global climate change;

AND WHEREAS through the Cool Vancouver Task Force, Community Climate Change Action Plan and establishment of the Sustainability Group, the City of Vancouver has taken a leadership role in committing to actions which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and that such actions include numerous steps that save people and businesses money, support sustainable economic development, and contribute to leadership in urban sustainability;

AND WHEREAS other major cities such as London, England are making significant investments in infrastructure adaptations in anticipation of rising sea levels;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Council direct staff to examine potential impacts of climate change on City of Vancouver infrastructure, including port facilities, stormwater and sewage systems (including the Iona sewage plant), seawalls and foreshore development;
2. Staff report back to Council with recommendations for measures which could be taken to mitigate these impacts, including targets, timelines and budgets;
3. In light of IPCC findings, Council affirm Vancouver's commitment to reduce greenhouse gasses by 6% below 1990 levels by 2012, and direct staff to begin discussing more significant reduction targets beyond 2012;
4. Council request the Mayor send a letter to the Premier of British Columbia and the Prime Minister of Canada requesting that they commit to important and meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, both consistent with the Kyoto Accord and to long-term reduction targets;
5. Staff integrate community engagement around climate change issues into all City communications.

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