

Supports Item No. 4
P&E Committee Agenda
March 3, 2011

4. Cuts to Family Reunification Program

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on March 1, 2011, referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on March 3, 2011, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVER: Councillor Meggs

SECONDER: Councillor Jang

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced its intention to cut the number of immigrants admitted to Canada under the family reunification program to 11,000 in 2011 from 16,000 last year; and

WHEREAS there are already more than 100,000 waiting on the list for approval, meaning their wait times could double from six years to nearly 13 years according to immigration experts; and

WHEREAS family reunification has been one of the most important goals of thousands of Vancouver residents who have settled in our city; and

WHEREAS access to family reunification has been one of the commitments the Government of Canada has made to hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have made their lives here in the expectation that ultimately they would be reunited in Canada with loved ones;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver appeal to the Federal Government through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to reverse this decision and maintain family reunification approvals at least at current levels;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT this motion be forwarded to the LMLGA and the UBCM for their consideration.

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