

B.3

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. City Mentorship Program for Women

MOVER: Councillor De Genova

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver City Council is committed to making Vancouver a place where all women and girls - regardless of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, economic background, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age - have full access to the range of services and resources provided in the City, and have opportunities to fully participate in the political, economic, cultural and social life of Vancouver;
2. As a member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the City of Vancouver has endorsed the International Union of Local Authorities' *Worldwide Declaration on Women and Local Government*, and as such, has committed to strengthening efforts to make equal the number of women and men in decision-making bodies at all levels and in all policy areas as well as strengthening efforts to ensure qualitative participation of women in councils, committees and other groups related to decision-making in local government;
3. The City of Vancouver's Gender Equality Strategy document (June 2005), prepared by the City of Vancouver's Women's Task Force (2003), is an expression of the City's longstanding commitment to gender equality and outlined numerous steps to promote equality between women and men and challenge gender discrimination;
4. The mandate of the City's Women's Advisory Committee includes the enhancement of access and inclusion for women and girls to fully participate in City services and civic life;
5. Despite the City's efforts to achieve balance between the number of women and men appointed to the City's advisory committees, the number of women has not achieved parity with the number of men;
6. It is vitally important that women, especially young women from among whose ranks the leaders of tomorrow will emerge, be provided with opportunities to engage in public service and become involved in civic affairs;
7. Mentoring is a time-honoured tradition whereby knowledge and experience is passed from one person to another, providing benefits to mentors and mentees alike.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver initiate and support a mentorship program for women interested in public service whereby mentees can increase their knowledge of civic affairs, gain from the experience of participating City staff and members of Council, and also be encouraged to consider applying for service on City advisory committees, with a goal to achieve equality between women and men on the City's decision-making bodies at all levels and in all policy areas;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back within six months with a plan to implement a mentorship program for women, including a budget and potential opportunities for sponsors and partners, while remaining cognizant of other inclusion objectives such as efforts by the City to enhance access and inclusion for seniors, persons with disabilities, and for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited and queer persons (LGBTQ2+).

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