

RR-1(b)(i)

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
JANUARY 24, 2002**

3. Meeting on Provincial Government Cuts to Services and Programs (File: 1263)

At its meeting on January 22, 2002, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to a future Standing Committee meeting in order to hear from delegations who have requested to speak.

Accordingly, the Committee had before it the following Motion on Notice.

WHEREAS, the provincial government is responsible for the delivery of programs and services including healthcare, justice, child protection, housing, human rights protection, alcohol and drug treatment, and environmental protection that are essential to the safety and well-being of all Vancouver residents;

AND WHEREAS, anticipated cuts to many of those services by the provincial government could seriously jeopardize the safety and well-being of Vancouver residents;

AND WHEREAS, the city of Vancouver could find itself in a position of funding replacement services and programs for those previously provided by the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Vancouver city council seek an immediate meeting with Premier Gordon Campbell and the provincial cabinet to determine the implications of provincial service and program cuts to the citizens of Vancouver.

postponed

The following spoke in favour of the motion:

Murray Dobbin, Chair, Vancouver Council of Canadians
Jean Swanson, End Legislated Poverty
Sadia Ramirez, Tenants' Rights Action Coalition
Phil Le Good
David Cadman, President, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation
Tom Kozar, BC Government Employees' Union
Ken McDonald, BC Government Employees' Union
Guy Wera, The Bicycle People
Shane Simpson, Smart Growth British Columbia
Marilyn Young
Ocean Dionne & Jason O'Brien, Emily Carr Students' Union
Rochelle Davidson

Speakers' comments included:

- it is Council's duty to protest unjustifiable cuts, speak in defence of citizens and protect the City's economic viability; 31 municipalities have already spoken out;
- there will be a negative impact on the social fabric of the Province in many areas;
- those denied help through provincial programs will rely on the City which could result in tax increases;
- if not challenged; the Province will see this as green light to make further cuts;
- money allocated to Olympic bid should be redirected to reduce cuts;
- BC has highest personal wealth in Canada, but greatest discrepancy between wealthy and poor;
- there is no transparency in Provincial model;
- cuts have been made without public consultation;
- February 6, 2002 is designated Day of Action - students urge Council to stand up with them in face of cuts;

The Deputy city Manager advised staff is currently analyzing the impact of the Province cuts.

MOVED by Councillor Clarke

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the motion to meet with the Provincial Government regarding cuts to services and programs be postponed until staff reports back on implications of the Provincial cuts and implications on the City budget process and also until input from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities is received.

CARRIED

(Councillors Bass and Louis opposed)