



VanRIMS No.:01-1500-10

## MEMORANDUM

June 16, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Laura Kazakoff, Meeting Coordinator  
SUBJECT: 2006 UBCM Resolutions

At the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on June 15, 2006, Council approved the following resolutions from Council and staff:

SUBJECT	SUBMITTED BY:
MEASURING UP	Mayor Sullivan
PROVINCIAL MENTAL HEALTH PLAN AND AN ADDICTIONS TREATMENT	Councillor Ball
PROVINCIAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES	Vancouver Public Library
BEDBUGS	Housing Centre - Community Services Group
MILK CONTAINERS	Solid Waste Management - Engineering Services
EXCESSIVE PACKAGING	Solid Waste Management - Engineering Services
ENABLING MUNICIPALITIES TO CREATE BLANKET SPEED ZONES	Transportation - Engineering Services
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION ON TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY	Utilities - Engineering Services

Council agreed to prioritize these resolutions prior to submitting them to the 2006 UBCM Convention.

Accordingly, the attached resolutions, which reflect amendments requested by Council on June 15, 2006, refer.

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MEASURING UP

WHEREAS accessibility and inclusion are fundamental factors in empowering people with disabilities to fully participate in and contribute to society and the City of Vancouver strives to take a leadership role in increasing accessibility and inclusion both within and outside its own city limits;

AND WHEREAS the City has partnered with 2010 Legacies Now and the Provincial and Federal governments to produce *Measuring Up*, a comprehensive, step-by-step guide that enables communities to assess and remedy their accessibility and inclusion barriers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council endorse *Measuring Up* as a resource for communities throughout British Columbia as they work to improve accessibility and inclusion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City bring a resolution to the UBCM 2006 convention requesting every BC municipality adopt *Measuring Up* as their guide to accessibility and inclusion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City propose a resolution to UCBM that a formal request be made to the Provincial and Federal governments to allocate infrastructure funding to support accessibility and inclusion initiatives in communities throughout BC.

PROVINCIAL MENTAL HEALTH PLAN AND AN ADDICTIONS TREATMENT

WHEREAS problematic drug use is a persistent and serious issue that municipalities across British Columbia must continue to address;

AND WHEREAS responsibility for the implementation of Mental Health and Addiction Services lies with regional health authorities;

AND WHEREAS provincial mental health and addictions policy advocates partnerships with municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request the Provincial Government through the Ministry of Health to articulate a provincial Mental Health Plan and an Addictions Treatment plan that addresses regional needs, outlines best practice in treatment interventions, addresses the need for expanded treatment capacity, particularly in the area of youth treatment and acknowledges municipalities as key partners in the development and implementation of the treatment plan.

PROVINCIAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education in its 2005/06 fiscal year began the implementation of its strategic plan for public libraries "Libraries Without Walls", by providing new direct and indirect funding programs exceeding \$6 million to the benefit of BC's public libraries;

AND WHEREAS these new funds have increased the benefits derived from local public Library expenditures and enhanced library collaboration Province-wide.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities thank the Minister of Education for this significant increase in financial support for BC's public libraries and encourage the Minister to enhance this support in future years.

BEDBUGS

WHEREAS the infestation of bedbugs is a serious problem specifically in the low-income housing stock in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver and possibly in other types of housing and hotel accommodation across the city and in other BC municipalities;

AND WHEREAS bedbugs are impacting not only the health of tenants, but also the livability and economic viability of the rental housing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Provincial government acknowledge that the infestation of bedbugs in Vancouver and other BC municipalities poses a health and social risk and that the Provincial Ministry of Health be directed to convene a task force to work with local health authorities and municipalities to:

- Provide financial resources to develop innovative programs to control bedbugs;
- Further research the impact on individuals with a compromised immune system; and
- Increase public awareness and education about controlling and preventing the spread of bedbugs.

## BEDBUGS

### Background

The City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada have recognized the importance of addressing health, social, economic and safety issues in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver and elsewhere. The infestation and spread of bedbugs has become a serious concern. Bedbug bites create inflamed spots or swelling that can be accompanied by severe itching and inflammation and some frequently bitten individuals develop a sensitivity syndrome that includes nervousness, agitation ("jumpiness") and sleeplessness.

Controlling bedbugs is complex and difficult. Bedbugs are very resilient (an adult can live over a year without feeding); they are tiny and can hide in small cracks in walls or furniture; and they reproduce rapidly (females lay their eggs in secluded areas - 200-500 in a lifetime). Bedbug control requires education and co-ordination between tenants, landlords and service providers. Pesticide treatments are used to kill bedbugs; however, if tenant and hotel management do not systemically address a number of needs besides spraying, infestation is likely to re-occur. Increasing public awareness about bedbugs and their control is essential to preventing the spread of this pest.

MILK CONTAINERS

WHEREAS beverage containers for milk, milk substitutes and meal replacements are not yet covered by the Provincial Beverage Container Product Stewardship Program, contribute to garbage and litter, and require extensive space in municipal blue boxes and collection vehicles;

AND WHEREAS milk containers make up 20% by volume of the materials collected in municipal recycling programs, and the Beverage Container Stewardship Program is the most effective and environmentally responsible way to divert these containers from disposal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request the Provincial government to include milk, milk substitute and meal replacement beverage containers in the Provincial Beverage Container Stewardship Program.

## MILK CONTAINERS

### Background

The Provincial Beverage Container Stewardship Program is one of the most successful recycling programs in the world measured in terms of high recovery rates, cost effectiveness and adherence to the principle of "polluter pay". The Program also performs another vital function in reducing the amount of litter in the Province, which is very important to our tourism industry and the coming 2010 Olympics.

At present, all ready-to-drink beverage containers in the Province are covered by the Beverage Container Program except milk, milk substitutes and meal replacement beverages. This inconsistency is confusing to consumers when they are recycling. As well, milk and related beverage products are no longer being marketed and sold just as a home staple and municipalities are seeing more of the specialty milk, liquid yogurt and meal replacement containers in our litter cans and in the litter on our streets.

No credible reason has been advanced as to why these beverage containers should not be included in the Beverage Container Stewardship Program. The additional cost to the consumer, if a recycling fee is needed on a particular container, is marginal in comparison to the retail cost of the product and is fully refundable to the consumer. Shifting the responsibility of funding collection and recycling programs for these materials away from the general tax payer and to the program user/consumer is more equitable, garners more awareness, and is a direct incentive for industry to manage these materials from a life cycle perspective.

From a municipal perspective, collecting milk containers in curbside collection programs is problematic and costly, since these containers (e.g. milk jugs) take up a great deal of space for very little weight. It is therefore not cost effective or environmentally desirable for municipalities to collect bulky, low density containers at curbside. As well, the recycling recovery rates of containers that are included in municipal collection programs are typically under 50 percent. This is in comparison to the very high recovery rates of 80 to 90 percent of the Beverage Container Program due to the incentive of the deposit refund. The high recovery rate with the Provincial program is a very significant factor when one considers the reduction of greenhouse gases that occurs through recycling and the associated reduction in street litter.



EXCESSIVE PACKAGING

WHEREAS there is excessive and wasteful packaging that ends up in the garbage;

AND WHEREAS the producers rather than the taxpayers should fund the recycling of this packaging.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Provincial and Federal governments mandate reduction of excessive packaging through product stewardship recycling programs, including materials such as plastic shopping bags, disposable cups and dishes, Styrofoam packing, bubble wrap packing and plastic film packaging.

## EXCESSIVE PACKAGING

### Background

Product stewardship is a type of recycling program that is run by the producers of the product. Recycling costs are typically recovered from the consumer of the product through a fee paid at point-of-purchase. Product stewardship for packaging has many advantages because it:

- shifts the cost of recycling to the producer and consumer which is fairer and in line with the "polluter pay" principle;
- shifts the responsibility for creating and maintaining end markets to the producers;
- shifts the responsibility for promoting the program to the producers;
- allows the option of a refundable deposit to be charged on packaging to increase recovery rates (e.g. beverage containers in BC); and
- encourages the producers to reduce the amount of waste in their packaging at the source since the producers have to recycle the packaging.

ENABLING MUNICIPALITIES TO  
CREATE BLANKET SPEED ZONES

WHEREAS the speed limit in cities and municipalities in BC is “50 km/h unless otherwise posted”, with no differentiation between major roads and local streets;

AND WHEREAS lower speeds can decrease the severity and incidence of car crashes, benefit livability and safety of neighbourhoods, improve drivers’ respect for neighbourhoods, and improve cyclist and pedestrian safety;

AND WHEREAS in 1999 the Union of BC Municipalities passed a resolution supporting blanket speed zones in residential areas; however, removing the words “in residential areas” from the original resolution would simplify the process of amending the Motor Vehicle Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request the Minister of Transportation and Highways to consider an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act that would allow incorporated municipalities to institute blanket speed zones.

## ENABLING MUNICIPALITIES TO CREATE BLANKET SPEED ZONES

### Background

At present, the speed limit on most streets in the City of Vancouver is 50 km/hr, since it is the default speed within municipalities set out in the Motor Vehicle Act.

Studies have shown that lower speeds improve safety; particularly for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. The livability of neighbourhoods is also improved with reduced traffic speeds since slower roads are friendlier, are easier to cross as a pedestrian, and are more conducive to positive interactions between residents. Because of this, the City has made the decision to slow traffic on local streets, both through traffic calming and by instituting a speed limit that better reflects appropriate speeds on narrower, non-arterial streets.

It has been the conclusion of the City Police and Legal Departments that an amendment to British Columbia's *Motor Vehicle Act* would be needed to reduce the speed limit on these streets since the *Act* does not allow incorporated municipalities to set blanket speed zones of less than 50 km/h. In 1999, the Union of BC Municipalities passed the following resolution, submitted by the City of Vancouver:

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Transportation and Highways be asked to consider an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act that would allow incorporated municipalities to institute blanket speed zones in residential areas.*

The City's goal is to reduce the speed limit to 40 km/hr on local residential streets. To accomplish this the City would implement a blanket 40 km/hr speed zone throughout the city and sign the exceptions. These exceptions would be on major roads (usually 50 km/h) as well as 30 km/h at school and playground zones. The City would implement this in such a way as to minimize any negative impact on transit and goods movement.

Staff at the Ministry of Transportation, which is responsible for the Motor Vehicle Act, have expressed concerns with the 1999 resolution since it only asks that municipalities be granted the right to change blanket speed limits "in residential areas". Since it is difficult to define what a residential area is, the City has asked the Ministry to amend the Motor Vehicle Act to allow municipalities to set a blanket speed limit, regardless of the type of area. The wording of the 1999 resolution doesn't fully support this.

While the City's plan is to use the legislation to allow for reduced speed limits on local streets, the revised legislation should be flexible enough to allow municipalities to raise speed limits if desired. A municipality may have a heavily industrial area which would benefit from an increased speed limit or want to designate areas where lower speeds are appropriate. In either case it is appropriate that municipalities have the ability to determine and set appropriate speeds. In general, there are many situations in which the ability to create a blanket speed limit might benefit a municipality.

City of Vancouver

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION ON TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY

WHEREAS the current Federal legislation governing the telecommunications industry and, in particular, the use of municipal and provincial lands and streets, is complex and results in a subsidy to telecommunications companies from the municipal and provincial taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the recent report from the Telecommunications Policy Review Panel established by the Federal Minister of Industry has recommended significant changes to the Telecommunications Act, which will increase the level of regulation imposed upon municipalities in dealing with the use of public lands by telecommunication companies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Office of the Premier and the Minister of State for Intergovernmental Affairs be invited to join with the UBCM and ask the Federal Minister of Industry to consult with municipalities and provinces on contemplated changes to the Federal Telecommunications Act in order to restore the ability for municipalities and provinces to adequately manage telecommunication companies use of public lands.

## MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION ON TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY

### Background

The telecommunications industry is regulated by the Federal Government, through the Minister of Industry, Maxime Bernier, principally using the Telecommunications Act, which delegates many powers to the Canadian Radio and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC).

In 2003, the CRTC rendered the so-called "Ledcor Decision", which established principles to guide the relationship between municipalities (and other authorities controlling public land, including the Provinces) and telecommunications companies. Key among these principles was the concept that municipalities were able only to recover their "causal costs" from the companies use and occupation of public lands and not charge rent or have some other business relationship with the companies. This means that, if the municipalities do everything perfectly and can justify every cost to the satisfaction of the companies, we will, at best, break even. This and other of the "principles" are proving very complex and difficult to work with. In practical terms, this means that municipalities are not receiving full compensation for the costs of having the telecom companies occupy municipal lands and taxpayers are subsidizing the telecommunications companies.

The Federal Industry minister established in April 2005 the Telecommunications Policy Review Panel that has recently reported out. The recommendations will add further regulation to the relationship between public bodies and the telecom companies. Included in the report is a recommendation that the CRTC's jurisdiction be clarified to ensure it extends to all publicly owned or controlled lands, which we expect would extend well beyond streets and highways to include municipal and provincial parks, structures, building sites and other publicly controlled property.

We believe that the holders of public property should cooperate and seek consultation with the Federal Ministry of Industry on any changes contemplated to the Telecommunications Act that might affect the ability of Municipal and Provincial governments to manage the impacts of the telecom industry occupying and operating on public lands.