

**LATE DISTRIBUTION
FOR COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 28, 2006**

COMM-2



**CITY OF BURNABY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DEREK R. CORRIGAN
MAYOR**

2006 October 27

Mayor and Councillors
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Council:

Burnaby City Council, at the 'Open' Council meeting held 2006 October 16, adopted the following motion regarding homelessness:

"WHEREAS homelessness is the most visible aspect of problems that reach far deeper into our communities and affect the liveability of our cities, and the safety and security of our citizens; at the same time as it compounds the problems faced by the most vulnerable of our society; and

WHEREAS the quality of life in all cities in the region is being adversely impacted as a result of the lack of affordable housing, the lack of adequate treatment facilities for those suffering from mental illness or substance abuse and addiction, and the lack of adequate income support for the poor, seniors, and new immigrants; and

WHEREAS local government is responsible for providing a multitude of services such as water, sewer, waste, roads, transit, parks, recreation, fire, police and planning among many others; and finance these services with only 8 cents out of every tax dollar collected; and

WHEREAS constitutional responsibility for housing, health, education, criminal law, immigration and social services resides with the provincial and federal governments, by whom 92 cents of every tax dollar is collected; and

WHEREAS cities are being left to shoulder the real and downloaded costs of poverty, crime and untreated mental illness through increased policing and community degradation, and pay for this through the regressive property tax system that was never designed to support social programs and social infrastructure; and


WHEREAS the Provincial and Federal governments have significant fiscal surpluses, but are failing to address these problems, leaving cities to be asked to divert funds from our other responsibilities to redress the lack of attention to the provision of an adequate social infrastructure; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Burnaby rejects the downloading of costs of social programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Burnaby request the assistance of our Members of Parliament and the Legislature through an urgent meeting with our City Council to demand that both levels of government provide meaningful funding and programs to establish affordable housing initiatives, provide rehab and treatment centres for addiction, provide supportive permanent housing for those suffering mental illness, and provide adequate income support for the poor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT this motion be circulated to the UBCM member municipalities, BC MLAs and MPs, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities asking for support and concerted action to address these serious issues."

Sincerely,


Derek R. Corrigan
MAYOR