

MOTION ON NOTICE

At the Regular Council meeting on April 1, 2008, the following motion was submitted by Councillor Louie. Councillor Anton called Notice under Section 5.4(c) of the Procedure By-law. The motion will be considered at the Regular Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting of April 3, 2008.

1. Opposition to Proposed Federal Immigration Changes
(VanRIMS No. 01-5500-30)

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Stevenson

WHEREAS two-thirds of Canada's population growth between 2001 and 2006 was fuelled by immigrant newcomers; and

AND WHEREAS By 2012, immigration is expected to account for all net labour force growth, and the Conference Board of Canada estimates a shortfall of 3 million skilled workers by the year 2020; and

AND WHEREAS Vancouver ranks as Canada's second most popular destination for new immigrants which brings a rich tapestry of language and culture that contributes to Vancouver's social and cultural dynamic; and

AND WHEREAS the mandate of the Mayor's Task Force on Immigration was to set the context for City of Vancouver and community partners to have a voice in the development of government policies and programs related to immigrants and refugees; and

AND WHEREAS the proposed amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act will give the Minister the power to pick and choose which immigrants; and

AND WHEREAS more than 900,000 prospective immigrants that are currently on the waiting list could be stripped of their right to a visa.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council voice its opposition of these amendments, which would centralize power in the hands of one person, open up the system for political interference, and cripple the flow of immigrants necessary for Canada's future success; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council encourage the Federal Government to allocate more resources to the immigration system to alleviate the huge backlog of immigrant applicants that currently exists; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver's position regarding this matter be communicated by letter to the UBCM and the FCM.

Notice