

LATE DISTRIBUTION FOR COUNCIL - OCTOBER 28, 2008

B.2

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Chow submitted the following Motion at the Regular Council meeting following the Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic meeting on October 28, 2008.
Councillor Anton called Notice under Section 5.4(c) of the Procedure By-law.

2. Identification Requirements for Civic Election

MOVER: Councillor George Chow

SECONDER: Councillor Tim Stevenson

WHEREAS it is in the interests of all municipal political parties in Vancouver that there be a high voter turnout and no citizen be denied the right to vote;

WHEREAS the recent federal election reflected an all-time low turnout of Canadian voters;

WHEREAS, based on reports from the federal election, there are concerns that immigrant seniors, homeless people, and students may be disenfranchised if restrictive interpretations of election ID requirements are used;

WHEREAS part of the mission of the City of Vancouver is to involve citizens in their city and its governance;

WHEREAS the Vancouver Charter and existing voter regulations are permissive in the classes of ID they permit for registration on voting day;

WHEREAS there is little or no history of identification fraud in Vancouver elections, and that historic concerns have rather been a disproportionately low number of voters given Vancouver's population;

WHEREAS many of the groups who are most likely to be disproportionately disenfranchised are explicitly protected against such disproportional impact by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the B.C. Human Rights Act, and international agreements to which Canada is a party; and,

WHEREAS re-statement of the existing regulations around voting, and how such rules should be interpreted, will assist in expediting the Election Day process and ensure a more consistent practice across the city;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Staff be instructed to train election day workers (in particular Presiding Election Officials at each polling station) to accept the following types of identification when a voter is registering on election day as the below list of identification requires an individual to prove his or her identity in a verifiable way prior to the identification being issued:
 - Senior and Social Housing Rent Receipt
 - Seniors' Bus Passes,
 - Canadian Passports,
 - Pigeon Park Savings member/debit card,
 - Correctional Services Identification,
 - Pigeon Park Savings VanCity Bank Statement,
 - Photo Copied ID stamped by Ministry of Housing and Social Development or Pigeon Park Savings, and
 - Indian Status cards

2. Election day staff (in particular Presiding Election Officials at each polling station) be instructed that when they are exercising their discretion in response to a voter presenting other kinds of identification that they work towards the enfranchisement of voters.

Notice

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