



# A9

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 24th, 2009  
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Meeting Date: June 16, 2009

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager, Engineering Services  
SUBJECT: Canada Day Fireworks

### *RECOMMENDATION*

- A. THAT Council approve a grant of \$10,000 to the Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society to help offset the cost of purchasing and presenting a Canada Day fireworks show in Burrard inlet off Canada Place source of funds 2009 Contingency Reserve.
- B. THAT Council approve a budget of up to \$40,000 to cover anticipated costs of Police, Park Board and Engineering services required to support a Canada Day fireworks show off Canada Place on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009; source of funds 2009 Contingency Reserve.

### *CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS*

The City Manager notes that Canada Day Celebrations are important National Celebrations and many cities across the country are associated with fireworks in some form. The City's contribution to the Fireworks event will complement the support of neighbouring municipalities, and also complement the federal government's support of Canada Day festivities at Canada Place.

### *COUNCIL POLICY*

That FEST Committee obtains Council approval for special events that use City property, or where the event could have an impact on the adjacent public.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

Council must approve expenditures involving draws from Contingency Reserve.

Special Event organizers are responsible for all City costs associated with their events.

At a March 11th, 2004, meeting Council adopted a number of new special event policies, including the following:

“Council welcomes celebrations and special events for their contribution in making Vancouver a vibrant City, in reflecting our cultural diversity and neighbourhood character, and for the economic, cultural and recreational benefits they bring to the City. Council supports the facilitation of these events by staff, encourages mitigation of short-term disruptions in neighbourhoods and encourages citizens to welcome these activities and to participate in them.”

### ***PURPOSE***

This report presents information about the costs of participating in a Canada Day fireworks show, presented by the Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society, on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It will provide background into the 2007 and 2008 events, and information about the Society’s request for the City’s on-going endorsement and financial support for the event.

### ***BACKGROUND***

Canada Day fireworks returned to Burrard Inlet in 2007, after a hiatus of four years. Although there were some initial concerns expressed by FEST about construction in the area that blocked access to safe viewing areas for the anticipated crowds, FEST endorsed the plan and Council agreed to provide a grant to help offset the operational costs to the Society, as well as funding for City services required to manage the event impacts, mainly policing and crowd control.

### ***DISCUSSION***

Vancouver’s celebration of Canada’s national holiday, the second largest Canada Day event in the country, and the fireworks display is a popular end to the festivities. The Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society was created in 2007 by representatives of the City and District of North Vancouver, the City of West Vancouver and Canada Place Corporation with a goal to provide a Canada Day fireworks display from a barge placed in Burrard Inlet that made them visible for residents of surrounding municipalities. Although, legally, the City of Vancouver could not join the Society, Council agreed to contribute a grant toward the cost of the fireworks, as the other North Shore municipalities had, and also to cover the costs of City services required in the area around Canada Place, including Police, Engineering and Park Board charges.

#### 2007 Costs

Engineering (Sanitation) and Parks absorbed in existing budgets  
VPD costs - \$28,478.

#### 2008 Costs

Engineering - \$800  
Parks - \$100  
VPD costs - \$26,400

In 2007 Canada Day was on the weekend and crowds were larger. Because of the increased viewing options for the fireworks this year estimates for costs of policing may change, but an estimate of \$30,000 has been determined.

A report back on new ways that the City might support Outdoor Events and Celebrations was expected to be presented to Council in the spring; and funding options for the Canada Day fireworks would have been included. That report has been delayed, and will be presented to Council for consideration in the 2010 operating budget; leaving funding for this year's fireworks show once again reliant on Council's consideration.

### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Since 2007 funding for Canada Day fireworks has come from Contingency Reserve. The following table outlines the previous draws on Contingency.

	2007	2008	Proposed 2009
One-Time Grant	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
City Services	\$55,000	\$43,000	\$40,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$53,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b> (including Grant)	<b>\$38,478</b>	<b>\$37,300</b>	

Costs for City services for other Canada Day activities, including the outdoor street festival and the inaugural Canada Day parade, will be recovered from Canada Place Corporation and the Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society.

### ***COMMUNICATIONS PLAN***

The Canada Day celebration, including outdoor street festival, Vancouver's first Canada Day parade and the fireworks show are being publicized through the City's Transit Shelter program for the month of June. As well, publicity done by Canada Place and the Society will encourage viewing from the north shore municipalities.

### ***CONCLUSION***

A fireworks display on the evening of Canada Day is a long-standing tradition in many Canadian cities. The Burrard Inlet fireworks show, a joint initiative of North Vancouver City and District, West Vancouver, the City of Vancouver and Canada Place, provides excellent viewing opportunities for citizens of all four communities. On-going funding for the cost of City services to support the event should be established; the issue will be addressed in an upcoming Council Report on support for Outdoor Events and Festivals

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