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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT
Public Access and Council Services

VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20

MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2009

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Tina Hildebrandt
Meeting Coordinator

SUBJECT: 2009 UBCM Resolutions

The following resolutions have been submitted by Councillor Woodsworth and Community Services. If approved by Council, these resolutions will be submitted to the 2009 UBCM Convention.

SUBJECT	SUBMITTED BY:
CAMPAIGN FINANCING	Councillor Woodsworth
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	General Manager, Community Services Group

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

WHEREAS The Vancouver Electoral Reform Commission chaired by Thomas R. Berger, O.C., Q.C. Commissioner, recommended the following:

That Council petition the provincial government to amend the Charter to require that, if a party goes into debt in the course of a campaign, every contribution to that party made until the debt is fully retired must be reported as a campaign contribution.

That Council approach the provincial government to consult with Vancouver and other interested municipalities to design a system of restriction on campaign contributions for municipal elections.

AND WHEREAS the funds used to campaign for elected office have grown exponentially by both organizations and individuals thereby potentially limiting the ability of many to consider running for office.

AND WHEREAS the public should be entitled to know the source, amount and nature of contributions to these campaigns.

AND WHEREAS the Premier, during the 2009 provincial election campaign, stated that he is waiting for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to make a request on campaign contribution reform before taking action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver request that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act and the Vancouver charter to require full disclosure of all individual/campaign donations, gifts and contributions during a municipal campaign (to be defined as a set time period), a nomination period (to be defined as a set time period) and for elected members between elections.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any amendments to the disclosure laws be requested to be made before the 2011 municipal elections.

The City of Vancouver requests that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities put on its next agenda the issue of campaign finance spending limits.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS the provision of and access to affordable housing is vital to support the health and well-being of individuals, as well as the sustainability of vibrant and diverse communities.

WHEREAS the changes in senior government funding and the withdrawal of Federal funding for new social housing developments has placed constraints on the construction of new affordable housing units, combined with demand pressures on the existing stock of adequate affordable housing, and ongoing tight rental market conditions has meant that there are nearly 133,100 British Columbians who rent and who are in core housing need.

AND WHEREAS leadership, sustained funding, and strong partnerships are required to increase the supply and diversity of affordable housing across British Columbia.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UBCM urge the Provincial government and Federal government to work with community partners to develop a National Affordable Housing Strategy which includes provisions that respond to the specific needs of British Columbians; and which provides the necessary long-term funding to support the construction of the full range of affordable housing choices needed in communities across the Province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the UBCM urge the Provincial government to continue to show leadership on this issue through the provision of on-going funding to meet the housing needs in communities across the Province as well as in ensuring that adequate housing and supports are in place to better meet the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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