

Supports Item No. 6
CS&B Committee Agenda
May 6, 2010

6. Fair Trade Town

At the Regular Council meeting on May 4, 2010, Council referred this item to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting on May 6, 2010 in order to hear from speakers.

MOVER: Councillor Raymond Louie
SECONDER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

WHEREAS

1. Fair Trade Vancouver is a non-profit organization that seeks to increase awareness, availability, and sales of Fair Trade products in Metro Vancouver by connecting Metro Vancouverites to where their food and products come from;
2. Fair Trade Vancouver works to raise awareness of Fair Trade as an idea and to make it easy and practical for consumers to find Fair Trade products in their daily lives by working with workplaces, faith groups and other non-profit organizations in order to help them convert to Fair Trade products;
3. Fair Trade Vancouver is a volunteer-based organization with minimal operating costs and is currently a non-profit society in the process of seeking charitable status;
4. Fair Trade Vancouver notes that they do not require, nor are they anticipating requiring, any funding from the City for any purpose;
5. Eight Canadian towns have already received certification and there are currently at least eleven other Canadian municipalities working towards becoming Fair Trade Towns, including Montreal, St. John's, Quebec City, and Barrie;
6. The City of Vancouver has already adopted a Ethical Purchasing Policy (EPP) and Supplier Code of Conduct (SCC) and after one-year's experience with the policy, there has not been as significant costs as originally estimated, based on information from the supplier community at the time, leading to a clothing and uniform RFP outcome which allowed the City to contract for these items from suppliers who are compliant with the City policy and were cost competitive;
7. This Council supported Phase II work on the Sustainable and Ethical Purchasing Policy (SEPP) which includes core labour conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and demonstrates the City's commitment to sustainability by seeking to ensure safe and healthy workplaces for the people who make products or supply services for the City of Vancouver; and

8. The SEPP Phase II work was identified as a key priority in early 2009 by the Mayor's Greenest City Action Team as further development of the SEPP into all areas of City procurements is seen as a key element in making the City of Vancouver a leading edge organization dedicated to the principles of sustainability and supporting the strategies, initiatives and outcomes identified by the Greenest City Action Team.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Vancouver City Council endorse an application to become a Fair Trade Town and continue the existing policy to purchase only Fair Trade coffee, tea and sugar, and other Fair Trade certified products where possible and practicable, for all meetings, offices and canteens and appoint a City representative to the Fair Trade Vancouver steering committee for quarterly meetings.

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