

MOTION ON NOTICE

B.3

3. Office of Public Consultation

MOVER: Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS:

1. Vancouver City Council wants to encourage citizens to participate more actively in civic life, as well as in the development and management of municipal affairs;
2. Council unanimously passed a resolution on 28 July 2009 that noted "the City of Vancouver is committed to bringing the community into City Hall by engaging citizens, and soliciting their ideas, input and creative energy";
3. City Council should more formally recognize the power of citizens to influence the decisions of City Hall;
4. The City of Vancouver's public consultation processes are managed by a variety of city departments, agencies and boards;
5. These consultation processes are often delivered using different goals, budget levels, tools and methodologies;
6. The efficacy of some of these consultation processes have been put into question by several residents' groups in recent years (for example, in the West End and by groups concerned about the budget consultation); and
7. Both COPE and Vision Vancouver candidates and parties said they strongly supported establishing an independent office of public consultation when surveyed by the Think City Society in the fall of 2008.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT staff report back on the feasibility of the creation of an independent office of public consultation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

THAT the staff report will include:

- (a) the potential savings or cost of the office (and the possibility of consolidating public consultation and engagement in one department to create a cost-neutral office);

- (b) examination of how other cities handle public consultation processes that involve multiple departments, agencies and boards; and
- (c) examination of how other cities handle public consultation processes to ensure that processes are transparent, credible and effective.

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