

MOTION ON NOTICE

4. Rental Housing and Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

MOVER: Councillor Suzanne Anton

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS

1. Rental housing is an essential element of Vancouver's affordable housing supply;
2. Rents charged for rental housing in Vancouver are not subject to Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) or Provincial Sales Tax (PST), and will not be subject to the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST);
3. Rental housing operators and landlords pay GST on operating costs such as water, garbage, recycling, service contracts, maintenance, and supplies and can not offset these costs due to no input tax credits and BC Provincial rent control legislation;
4. The operating costs mentioned above are not subject to PST but will be subject to HST; and
5. The HST will increase the operating costs of rental housing operators and landlords by 1.5% - 2.5% with no ability to offset the increases.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council requests the Province, in its negotiations with the Federal Government, to seek to "zero rate" the rental apartment industry in order to protect the existing and future rental housing stock.
- B. THAT Council requests the Province to investigate ways to offset the additional cost of the HST as it relates to rental housing.

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