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MOTION ON NOTICE

1. Legal Aid in British Columbia

MOVER: Councillor David Cadman

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver is committed to equal access to justice for all of its citizens;
2. The provincial government has an obligation to properly fund legal services to ensure equal access to justice for every British Columbian;
3. The provincial government has repeatedly cut funding to legal aid over the past year;
4. Demand for legal aid in British Columbia has risen significantly over the past year;
5. Cuts to legal aid hurt the most vulnerable in our society, predominantly lower income women and children; and
6. Cuts to legal aid hurt marginalized Vancouver residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver submit the following resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities before June 30, 2010.

Legal Aid in British Columbia

City of Vancouver

WHEREAS the provincial government has repeatedly cut funding to legal aid over the past year despite its obligation to properly fund legal services to ensure equal access to justice for every British Columbian;

AND WHEREAS demand for legal aid in British Columbia has risen significantly over the past year, and cuts to legal aid hurt the most vulnerable in our society, predominantly lower income women and children:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Government of British Columbia to:

- restore and increase funding for legal aid in British Columbia , and
- allow the Legal Services Society to restore the LawLINE and re-open its regional offices.

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