

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. Support for Bill C-389

MOVER: Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

SECONDER: Councillor George Chow

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver is committed to ensuring the safety and well being of all the residents of the City of Vancouver and recognizes the right of every resident of Vancouver to live at all times in conditions of dignity, respect and freedom from violence, regardless of race, gender, age, physical and mental ability, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression;
2. The City of Vancouver recognizes that in order for the city to thrive it needs the gifts, talents, and skills of all its residents including its transgendered and transsexual residents, cross-dressers, drag kings/queens, transsexuals, androgynes, Two-Spirit people, gender variant, gender queer, and people who are bi-gendered, multi-gendered or otherwise identified;
3. The City of Vancouver recognizes that people are experiencing injustices such as denial of employment, housing, and access to trans-sensitive health care, and inability to obtain identification documents because of their gender identity and gender expression;
4. The Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) does not explicitly protect people from discrimination and harassment and violence based on their gender identity or gender expression and the Criminal Code does not include gender identity and gender expression as an identifiable group and does not take gender identity and gender expression into account as aggravating factors to be considered at time of sentencing;
5. Bill C-389, introduced by our neighboring city's MP Bill Siksay of Burnaby, will update the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination;
6. The City of Vancouver believes Bill C-389 to be an essential measure to protect its residents from any and all forms of discrimination, harassment, or violence and enable those residents to contribute their gifts, talents, and skills to the fullest extent.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the City of Vancouver supports Bill C-389 and calls on Members of Parliament to recognize it as a necessary measure to ensure the health and well-being of the citizens and residents of Canada and the wider health of its cities and communities.