

B.2

MOTION ON NOTICE

2. Federal Cutbacks to Local Marine Public Safety

MOVER: Mayor Gregor Robertson

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS

1. The Federal Government is closing the Kitsilano Coast Guard search and rescue station;
2. The station serves the busiest port in Canada, and responds to 300-350 search and rescue calls a year;
3. The consolidation of rescue services at the Sea Island hovercraft base will be 17 nautical miles farther away from its current location;
4. There was no public consultation on the closure, and the City of Vancouver, Park Board, and Vancouver Police Department had no advance warning of the closure;
5. The closure of the Kitsilano Coast Guard search and rescue station is another marine safety service for Vancouver being eliminated by the Federal Government, along with the recently announced closure of the coast guard communications centre in Vancouver, and the BC command centre for emergency oil spills;
6. Any response to increased risk to marine public safety due to Federal cutbacks may be borne by the City's first responders, such as the VPD's marine unit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of the City, write to the Federal Government expressing the City's opposition to these closures, and urge the Federal Government to reverse them.
- B. THAT staff report back on the full range of safety and financial impacts, including increased service demands on City first responders, as a result of the Kitsilano Coast Guard station closure and any other Federal marine safety cutbacks.

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