

9. Request to Provincial Government Regarding Campaign Finance Rules

At its meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor Kerry Jang

WHEREAS

1. In 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2012, the City of Vancouver has brought forward formal requests to the Province requesting changes to the Vancouver Charter to allow for local governments to create appropriate rules for disclosure and regulation of election campaign finance, which is currently regulated at a standard far lower than Provincial or Federal elections;
2. The funds used to campaign for elected office in Vancouver have grown exponentially in the seven year interval Vancouver has waited for provincial action on this issue, with the unprecedented case of \$960,000 donated to one electoral organization from a single corporation in the 2011 Vancouver municipal election;
3. The most recent motion, passed unanimously by Vancouver City Council in January 2012, provoked an informal response from the Provincial Government that they would be amenable to modernizing municipal election and campaign rules if support from a majority of municipalities was garnered;
4. A motion from Vancouver to the UBCM in 2009 was pre-empted from debate with the establishment of the provincial government's Local Government Election Task Force.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of BC Municipalities support Vancouver's request to the Provincial Government for amendments to the Vancouver Charter to allow Vancouver to make rules for election campaign finance that place greater limits on campaign spending and contributions, and provide for greater disclosure.

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