

6. Opposing New Tax on Small Music Venues

MOVER: Councillor Heather Deal

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. The Government of Canada recently changed the requirements for a Labour Market Opinion as part of changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker program;
2. The changes by the Government of Canada will now require that each employer, such as a venue or music promoter, must now pay an additional \$275 processing fee for each international musician hired to play at a bar, pub or restaurant in Canada;
3. Concert venues are exempt from this work permit requirement, but smaller venues that occasionally host musicians will not be;
4. The new requirements will significantly increase the financial burden on small venues and music promoters;
5. The changes will have a negative impact on Vancouver's music scene, as local bands and performers often get the chance to open for musicians touring from outside Canada;
6. The City has recently taken steps to make it easier for venues to host music shows and performances with a simplified licensing process for live performances in smaller venues;
7. Over 130,000 people have signed a petition urging Minister of Employment, Social Development and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney to amend the regulation and permit artists to perform in bars, restaurants, and coffee shops without requiring each venue to pay the additional processing fees to get a Labour Market Opinion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor write on behalf of City Council to Minister Kenney, stating the City's opposition to the new regulation, and urge the Federal Government to amend it to allow for an exemption for non-concert venues such as bars and restaurants.