

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 1. **Requesting Provincial Action to Ensure Full Disclosure of Financial Interests by Municipally Elected Officials**

MOVER: Councillor Reimer

SECONDER:

#### WHEREAS

1. On November 14, 2017, a motion was introduced at Council seeking greater financial disclosure from members of Council who list as sources of income public relations firms, government relations firms, consultancies, holding companies of other entities which obscure pecuniary interest;
2. Councillors Affleck, Ball, Bremner and De Genova declared conflict of interest on the motion and left the meeting;
3. The remaining members of Council voted unanimously to refer the motion until such time as Councillors could be given better legal advice on the purpose and intention of declaring oneself in conflict on an item;
4. The motion was subsequently brought back to Council for debate on December 13, 2017, at which point Councillors Affleck, Ball, Bremner and De Genova declared they had a "bias" and left the Council Chambers for the remainder of the debate during which the motion passed unanimously;
5. In order to ensure that members of Council are both accurate and comprehensive in their financial disclosures, and with the intent for Council to seek stricter rules for more transparent disclosure from those employed as lobbyists, public relations or government relations consultants and also serving on Council, it is advisable to request changes to the provincial Financial Disclosure Act;
6. In the interim a complaint has been brought forward against a member of Council that alleges conflict of interest based on the fact that the member works as a public relations consultant and his potential pecuniary interests are obscured as a result;
7. The public has an increasing interest in greater transparency in government but the current Financial Disclosure Act does not provide for transparency in the potential conflicts for members of a Council that are externally employed as lobbyists or government and public relation consultants on behalf of other private interests;
8. The Province of British Columbia states on the government website that "The intent of the Financial Disclosure Act is to identify what areas of influence and possible financial benefit an elected official, nominee or designated employee might have by virtue of their office, and to ensure the public has reasonable access to the information."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council put forward the attached motion to the UBCM requesting amendments to the Financial Disclosure Act to ensure the public has access to information on potential conflicts of interest for members of Council who list as sources of income public relations firms, government relations firms, consultancies, holding companies or other entities which obscure pecuniary interest.

**APPENDIX A – MOTION TO UBCM**

**FULL DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS BY MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

WHEREAS

1. The Province of British Columbia states on the government website that "The intent of the Financial Disclosure Act is to identify what areas of influence and possible financial benefit an elected official, nominee or designated employee might have by virtue of their office, and to ensure the public has reasonable access to the information.";
2. While the current Financial Disclosure Act requires disclosure of direct employment conflicts, it does not require disclosure of potential conflicts for municipally elected officials where the conflicts may be obscured as a result of them being employed as lobbyists or government and public relation consultants on behalf of other private interests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Financial Disclosure Act be amended to ensure that all potential conflicts and financial interests of municipally elected officials are disclosed per the stated intent of the Act.

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