

MOTION ON NOTICE

2. Confirming Support for Taking Big Money Out of Municipal Politics

MOVER: Councillor Reimer

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. In 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2013 via a motion endorsed by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and in 2014, 2015, and 2017 the City of Vancouver has unanimously endorsed formal requests to the Province requesting changes to the Vancouver Charter to allow Vancouver to create rules to take big money out of municipal politics including:
 - i. a full ban on union and corporate donations,
 - ii. caps on contributions from individuals,
 - iii. election spending limits,
 - iv. ongoing reporting between elections,
 - v. and better measures for enforcement of the rules;
2. The funds used to campaign for elected office in Vancouver grew from \$1 million to \$5.85 million in the years Vancouver waited for Provincial government action on this issue, with the unprecedented case in the 2011 Vancouver municipal election of \$1 million donated to one elector organization from a single corporation;
3. Frustrated with a lack of action by the last provincial government, in 2016 Vancouver City Council voted unanimously to ask for a referendum during the provincial election on the question of big money in municipal politics;
4. The new provincial government subsequently passed Bill 15 – Local Elections Campaign Financing Amendment Act with the intent of taking all big money out of municipal politics effective October 31, 2017;
5. In April 2018 it came to light that the an electoral organization intended to fundraise from corporate donors for “operating expenses” during the 2018 election year;
6. The Minister responsible for Municipal Affairs has subsequently referred to this practice as contrary to the intent of Bill 15, and resulting from an unintended loophole in the Act which she intends to fix.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver:
- Call on the Provincial Government to immediately amend the legislation to ensure that bans on corporate and union donations, and individual donations over \$1,200 are clearly applicable to all municipal political activities;
 - Reiterate our call for ongoing reporting of donations to municipal electoral organizations.

B. THAT the elector organization in question immediately disclose:

- All donations received from corporations, unions or individual donations over \$1,200;
- An itemized account by the electoral organization how they spent money raised outside the intent of Bill 15 since October 31, 2017, when the law came into force.

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