

MOTION

6. Persian New Year

At the Regular Council meeting on January 29, 2019, Vancouver City Council referred the following Motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 30, 2019, in order to hear from speakers.

Submitted by: Councillor Swanson

WHEREAS

1. Nowruz is the celebration of Spring Equinox, marking the beginning of the year for hundreds of millions of people worldwide, celebrated in more than 15 countries from Eastern Europe to Central and South Asia, is a public holiday in over 10 countries, and included in the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity;
2. In 2009, the Parliament of Canada passed a bill to officially add Nowruz to the national calendar of Canada, and the province of British Columbia proclaimed March 20 as the day of Nowruz in B.C.;
3. Nowruz is a holiday that is about connecting people of diverse cultures and backgrounds with nature, and Vancouver is proud of its diversity and its connection to nature;
4. Iran is in the top ten countries that send immigrants to Vancouver, and Persian is in the top ten non-official languages that Vancouverites speak.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver add Nowruz, the Persian New Year, to its official celebrations and observations calendar.
- B. THAT the City reaches out to the Persian community and collaborates to hold a brief mid-day Nowruz celebration on or around March 20 at City Hall, with participation from Mayor and Council.

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