

MOTION ON NOTICE

2. Supporting the Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act Bill S238

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung
Councillor Michael Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. On April 11, 2017, Senator Michael MacDonald introduced Bill S-238, "An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (importation of shark fins)", also referred to as "The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act". This Bill will create a law that will prohibit the inhumane act of shark finning in Canada and ban the importation of shark fins that have been harvested through shark finning;
2. The Canadian Government has banned "shark finning" in Canadian waters since 1994 as has the United States (2009) and the European Community (2003), but the sale and importation of shark fins continues in cities across Canada and the world;
3. In September, 2012, Vancouver City Council unanimously passed a motion instructing staff to work directly with the cities of Richmond and Burnaby in order to develop a common approach to ban the sale of shark fin in the three cities;
4. In April, 2017, Toronto City Council passed a motion expressing its support to the Prime Minister and Government of Canada for Bill S238, The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act;
5. Shark finning is a wasteful, inhumane practice that involves cutting off a shark's fins and then tossing the still-live shark back overboard to drown, bleed to death, or be eaten alive by other animals. Each year, up to 73 million sharks are killed primarily for their fins, threatening one-third of open ocean sharks with extinction;
6. A ban on the importation of shark fin would have a significant impact on the shark fin industry in Canada and would reduce the demand for shark fin imports and subsequently the practice of shark finning. Endorsing Bill S-238 will demonstrate Council's commitment to protecting shark populations and help prevent the extinction of shark species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council endorse Bill S238, The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act expressing its support for protecting shark populations and the role they play in our marine ecosystems;

FURTHER THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, forward this motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities asking them to encourage other municipalities to express their support for Bill S-238.