

MOTION ON NOTICE

8. Future of Balmoral and Regent Hotels

Submitted by: Councillor Swanson

WHEREAS

1. In July 2018, the City of Vancouver began the process to expropriate two Downtown Eastside Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotels – the Regent and the Balmoral – that housed very low-income residents for decades;
2. Three hundred and twenty-four rooms at the Regent and Balmoral Hotels remain vacant;
3. The 2019 homeless count is the highest in Vancouver history with about 1370 homeless (62%) in the Downtown Eastside;
4. The incomes of the residents in Downtown Eastside are extremely low; many of them do not feel comfortable in other Vancouver neighbourhoods and prefers the Downtown Eastside as their community of choice.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver ask the Province and Federal Governments for partnership and financial support in developing the future of these two sites (Balmoral and Regent Hotels) for low income, indigenous and women community residents.
- B. THAT if the buildings (Balmoral and Regent Hotels) are acquired by the City of Vancouver, the City staff consult with low income, indigenous and women community members about what they would like on the site.

* * * * *