

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

4. Supporting Hotel Workers' Right to Return to Their Jobs at Living Wages

Submitted by: Councillor Swanson

WHEREAS

1. The COVID pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and its social, health, and economic impacts are particularly devastating for women and racialized communities;
2. The tourism and hospitality industries have been drastically impacted;
3. Of the 50,000 hotel workers in BC that were laid off in March 2020, the majority are women and/or people of colour;
4. The duration of the pandemic means that recall rights require extension;
5. There are reports of hotels in British Columbia refusing to commit to bringing workers back to their jobs when business returns;
6. UNITE HERE Local 40 launched a campaign called BC Unequal Women to draw public attention to the devastating impact of the pandemic on racialized women in the hospitality industry;
7. The City of Vancouver is committed to a COVID recovery plan that takes better care of people, the environment, and the community than the systems we had before the pandemic;
8. Hotel workers and people who work in the tourism industry as valued and valuable members of our community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirms that people should not lose their livelihoods due to the pandemic.
- B. THAT Council requests the Mayor to write to the Ministers of Labour and Tourism expressing Council's support for the right for laid off workers to return to their jobs when the pandemic eases.
- C. THAT Council affirms its support for Local 40's Unequal Women campaign to return all workers, including racialized women, to their jobs as the tourism business recovers.
- D. THAT Council requests the Mayor to write to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities encouraging them to host future conferences and events in venues that respect worker rights and pay at least a living wage.

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