

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

3. Establishing an Inter-Municipal Business Licence for Home Healthcare Support Workers

Submitted by: Councillor Klassen

WHEREAS

1. In 2014, the provincial government created a single mobile business license for multiple municipalities for construction, trades, catering, and mobile (hair) salons. These were created for multiple regions in BC including the Lower Mainland. See information here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/small-business/mobile-business-licence-program>;
2. Mobile business licences allow some types of businesses to work across participating communities. They are also known as "inter-community business licences" or "inter-municipal business licences.";
3. The City of Vancouver has an ongoing program of work to support older adults and vulnerable populations. For example, many of Vancouver's seniors live on limited incomes, and have been affected both by increased costs for health care, and decreased access to services, such as home support;
4. The City of Vancouver has an Age-friendly Action Plan with a series of over 60 actions the City can take to help make Vancouver a more safe, inclusive, and engaging city for seniors. The City's goal is to improve facilities and services for seniors across the full spectrum, from fully independent older adults and seniors, to those who are more vulnerable and need additional support;
5. As part of the City's ongoing efforts to support Vancouver's families, Council and staff collaborate with the community and all levels of government to provide a range of programs and facilities that keep seniors active, engaged, and connected to the health services they need. Many seniors are also recent immigrants who face significant language barriers. City staff therefore work to increase access to services for these seniors, and support networking for seniors across all cultures;
6. Home health (support) workers are employed by both public and private companies. Most, but not all, support workers help seniors and people with disabilities (often providing relief for family caregivers) and variously provide shopping, meals, housekeeping, medicine allocation, and personal hygiene;
7. There are dozens of small and medium sized companies across Metro Vancouver who manage teams of home support workers who drive to appointments throughout the day. Many clients pay out of pocket for support services unless they receive support through the health authorities or by WorkSafeBC or ICBC claims; and

8. There is a strong rationale for the Provincial government, through the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, to expand the inter-municipal business licence categories to include home support workers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to explore the establishment of an inter-municipal business licence (i.e., mobile business license) for home healthcare support workers in coordination with their provincial and municipal counterparts, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, toward the expansion of home health support workers as an eligible mobile business license category.

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