

REPORT

Legislative Services

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: March 13, 2023

From: Lisa Spitale
Chief Administrative Officer
Acting City Clerk
File: 05.1035.05

Item #: 2023-185

Subject: Request to modify of the Call to Action on Creating more Equitable Municipalities motion forwarded to LMLGA and UBCM

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council support the proposed UBCM motion, approve co-sponsorship of the motion and direct staff to communicate this decision to LMLGA.

PURPOSE

To seek Council's direction on changes to a motion regarding a Call to Action on Creating more Equitable Municipalities proposed for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities meeting in September 2023.

BACKGROUND

At the February 27 Open Council meeting Councillor Nakagawa placed a notice of motion for debate entitled Call to Action on Creating more Equitable Municipalities, to be submitted to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) with the goal of having it debated at the Union of British Columbia Municipality (UBCM) in September 2023. After discussion Council approved the following motion:

MOVED AND SECONDED

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has an equity policy as well as a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism framework.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of New Westminster submit the following motion to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association for consideration for submission to UBCM:

WHEREAS systemic inequities are present in all municipalities and prevent all citizens from fully participating in civic life;

WHEREAS numerous municipalities across British Columbia and Canada have made progress towards becoming more equitable by committing to embed equity in all government action through the use of analytical processes for the assessment of systemic inequities (e.g., Gender-Based Analysis Plus).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) calls upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to provide resources and policy direction to enable municipalities to implement said processes across municipal capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives and once created urge municipalities to use the resources to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Staff at Legislative Services forwarded this motion to the secretariat of the LMLGA.

DISCUSSION

On March 6, Legislative Services received an email (Attachment 1) from the Executive Director which stated:

“[LMLGA] have received a resolution regarding "Equitable Communities" from four of our members, all with slightly different wording but the same intention. Rather than go forward with 4 different resolutions on the same topic, we would like to land on one resolution that is co-sponsored by all 4 municipalities.

UBCM has suggested the attached wording for the resolution. Could you please let me know if New Westminster is in agreement with retracting the resolution submitted and instead co-sponsoring the attached?”

Wording of the UBCM proposed resolution is:

WHEREAS systemic inequities are present in all municipalities and prevent all citizens from fully participating in civic life, but numerous municipalities across British Columbia and Canada have made progress towards becoming more equitable by committing to embed equity in all government action through the use of analytical processes for the assessment of systemic inequities (e.g., Gender-Based Analysis Plus);

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada have adopted Gender-Based Analysis Plus to assess how diverse Canadians experience policies, programs, and government initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to provide resources and policy direction to enable local governments to implement analytical processes for the assessment of systemic inequities(i.e. Gender-Based Analysis Plus) across local government capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives to ensure all citizens can participate fully in civic life and to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 March 6th Letter from UBCM

OPTIONS

There are three options for Council to consider:

- 1. THAT Council support the proposed UBCM motion, approve co-sponsorship of the motion and direct staff to communicate this decision to LMLGA;
- 2. THAT Council does not support the proposed UBCM motion and request that the City’s original motion be placed before LMLGA and UBCM;
- 3. THAT Council provide other direction.

Staff recommend option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – March 6, 2023 Email from LMLGA

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Jacque Killawee, Acting Records and Information Administrator

This report was approved by:
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, Acting Corporate Officer