



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

A G E N D A **REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Monday, March 16, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Esquimalt Council Chambers

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **LATE ITEMS**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

4. **PRESENTATION**

(1) Jody Watson, CRD Harbours and Watershed Coordinator

(i) Funding for Harbours Environmental Action, Staff Report Pg. 1 – 4
No ADM-09-018

5. **MINUTES**

(1) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, March 2, 2009 Pg. 5 – 13

(2) Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council, March 9, 2009 Pg. 14 – 16

6. **PUBLIC INPUT (On items listed on the Agenda)**

Excluding items which are or have been the subject of a Public Hearing.

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(1) From the Regular Council Meeting, February 2, 2009

(a) Tree Removal Permit #1175 at 1107 Bewdley Avenue Pg. 17
• Tree Removal Permit Appeal #1175 at 1107 Bewdley
Avenue, Staff Report No. P&R-09-010

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

Parks and Recreation

(1) Infrastructure Planning Grant Application from the Provincial Pg. 18 – 19
Ministry of Community Services for the Environment House in
Esquimalt Gorge Park, Staff Report No. P&R-09-011

9. **MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

(1) 2009 – 2011 Draft Strategic Plan Received for Public Input Pg. 20 – 39

(2) Report from Mayor Desjardins, Re: Centennial Celebrations
Select Committee Appointments

10. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

- (1) Committee of the Whole Report, March 9, 2009 Pg. 40
[Motion to approve the recommendation]

11. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- (1) Federation of Canadian Municipalities 72nd Conference and Pg. 41 – 44
Municipal Expo
- (2) Letter from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Pg. 45 – 49
dated February 9, 2009, Re: Emergency Management Workshops
- (3) Letter from the Times Colonist, dated February 12, 2009, Re: Pg. 50 – 51
Request for Endorsement of Canwest Canspell 2009
- (4) Letter from the City of Burnaby, dated February 18, 2009, Re: Pg. 52 – 68
Burnaby School Lands
- (5) Letter from the Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Pg. 69 – 70
Economic Development, dated February 25, 2009, Re:
Requesting Support for the Implementation of BizPal
- (6) Letter from the Greater Victoria Public Library Board, dated Pg. 71 – 75
February 26, 2009, Re: Library Final Five Year Financial Plan
(2009 – 2013) and 2009 Operating Budget
- (7) Letter from the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee, dated March 5, Pg. 76 – 79
2009, Re: Request of Support for Community Celebration
- (8) Email from the Municipal Finance Authority, received March 11, Pg. 80 – 90
2009, Re: Municipal Finance Authority Credit Rating

12. **PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD**

Excluding items which are or have been the subject of a Public Hearing.

13. **MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA**

- (1) Motion to go *In Camera* pursuant to Section 90 of the *Community Charter* to discuss the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality, pursuant to Section 90 (1) (e) and that the general public be excluded.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1
Telephone (250) 414-7100 Fax (250) 414-7111

STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 11, 2009 Report No. ADM-09-018
TO: Tom Day, Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Larry Randle, Manager of Corporate Services
SUBJECT: Funding for Harbours Environmental Action

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council execute an agreement for the 2009 calendar year with the CRD to continue its work through the Harbours Environmental Action Program with the \$12,985.00 funding requirement to be covered through CRD tax requisition.

BACKGROUND:

The Capital Regional District (CRD) core area Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) contains commitments to coordinate environmental protection of the harbours through the harbours environmental action program (Chapter 11 in LWMP). Implementation is carried out through the Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours Environmental Action program (VEHEAP), the Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative and the Gorge Waterway Initiative and through participation in other area-based harbour initiatives led by other agencies (i.e. Esquimalt Harbour Environmental Advisory Committee, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority).

In November 2008, the CRD received a legal opinion that indicated that the harbours program required a separate establishing bylaw and cost-sharing formula. During 2009 the intent is to develop a new establishing bylaw and associated cost sharing formula for the harbours programs and have that service in place for 2010.

Due to time constraints, it is not possible to develop a new bylaw and associated cost sharing formula prior to finalizing the 2009 budget. There are, however, regulatory and public expectations, along with current external funding agreements, that this work continue in the interim.

DISCUSSION:

The CRD is proposing a 1 year service agreement with the 7 participating municipalities to continue the program for 2009 while working with its municipal partners to reach an agreed upon cost sharing formula and establishing bylaw for the 2010 budget. The proposed service agreement amount would be \$12,985 for Esquimalt – precisely the amount the CRD will include on its Esquimalt requisition. There would be no increase in tax levied by Esquimalt.

To conclude, the proposed agreement does not constitute a new service or a new fee in 2009. It merely changes the mechanism by which the authority to provide the service occurs.

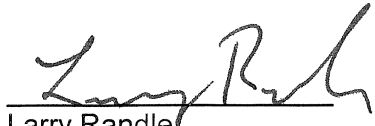
March 11, 2009

Page 2 of 2

Subject: Funding for Harbours Environmental Action

Ms. Jodi Watson, CRD Watershed and Harbours Coordinator will attend the Council meeting where this report is presented in order to provide further details on this matter. A copy of the draft agreement is attached to this report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Randle", written over a horizontal line.

Larry Randle,
Manager of Corporate Services

AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT dated for reference this 4th day of March, 2009 (the "Agreement Date")

BETWEEN:

Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000,
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

(the "CRD")

-and-

Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

("Esquimalt")

WHEREAS Esquimalt desires to engage the CRD through its Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds program to provide services to Esquimalt for the term of this Agreement and the CRD has agreed to provide such services, all in consideration and upon the terms and conditions herein;

NOW THEREFORE it is hereby agreed as follows:

1. **Services**

The CRD through the Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds program (SHWP), will undertake the existing commitments listed in the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan – *Chapter 11: Harbours Environmental Action* as follows:

- coordinate harbours environmental protection and improvement efforts among the Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours Environmental Action program (VEHEAP) partners
- work cooperatively with the other VEHEAP partners to protect and improve the environmental quality of Victoria and Esquimalt harbours through the joint implementation of VEHEAP's Environmental Management strategy (VEHEAP, 1997)
- to increase the CRD commitment for projects to reduce contaminant loads and to protect and remediate habitat

2. **Service Area**

The service area covered in this Agreement is as defined in the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan – *Chapter 11* and includes: Victoria Harbour, the Gorge, Portage Inlet, Esquimalt Harbour and Esquimalt Lagoon.

3. **Term**

This Agreement shall be in effect for a one (1) year term, commencing on January 1, 2009 and ending on December 31, 2009.

4. **Fees**

Esquimalt agree to pay the CRD a fee for the Services under the Agreement in the amount of \$12,985.00 to be requisitioned by the CRD and due on August 1, 2009.

5. **Governing Law**

This Agreement is to be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the Province of British Columbia.

6. Amendments

This Agreement may not be modified or amended except by the written agreement of the parties.

7. Notices

Notices under this Agreement shall be in writing and must be either personally delivered, or sent by facsimile transmission, or sent by double registered mail to the addresses set forth below. A party may change the address set forth by proper notice to the other.

Capital Regional District
Attention: Dale Green,
Supervisor, Stormwater Harbours & Watersheds Program,
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6 Fax: (250) 360-3254

Township of Esquimalt
Attention: Larry Randle, Manager of Corporate Services
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1 Fax: (250) 414-7111

8. Enurement

This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall enure to the benefit of each of the parties hereto and their respective employees and permitted receivers, successors and assigns.

9. Time

Time is of the essence of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have signed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

Capital Regional District by its authorized signatory:

Per: _____
Larisa Hutcheson
Acting General Manager, Environmental Services

Township of Esquimalt by its authorized signatories:

Per: _____
Name:
Title:

Per: _____
Name:
Title:



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009
7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT:

Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Councillor Bruce McIldoon
Councillor Alison Gaul
Councillor Lynda Hundleby
Councillor Meagan Brame
Councillor Donald Linge
Councillor Randall Garrison

STAFF:

T. Day, Chief Administrative Officer
G. Côté, Director of Engineering and Public Works
L. Hurst, Director of Financial Services
L. Randle, Corporate Officer (Recorder)
B. Snyder, Director of Development Services
J. Byron, Manager of Recreation Services (departed at 8:05 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Desjardins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

- 1) Pertaining to Agenda Item 10 (8), UBCM Memorandum dated February 25, 2009 Re: Strategic Community Investment Funds
Late item: Staff Report No. FIN-09-006 – SCI Funds Agreement
- 2) Report from Councillor Garrison on Cancellation of Sidney-Anacortes Ferry Run – item 9 (2)

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor McIldoon that Committee Reports be placed on the agenda before Staff Reports. The motion **CARRIED**.

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Councillor Brame that the agenda as amended be approved. The motion **CARRIED**.

4. MINUTES

(1) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, February 2, 2009

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Hundleby that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, February 2, 2009 be adopted. The motion **CARRIED**.

(2) Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council, February 9, 2009

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Councillor Garrison that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council, February 9, 2009 be adopted. The motion **CARRIED**.

5. PUBLIC INPUT (On items listed on the Agenda)

Excluding items which are or have been the subject of a Public Hearing.

- (1) Valerie Nathan, 1193 Munro Street requests that the public hearing for the zoning bylaw amendment application for 1991 Munro Street not be held between April 1st and April 18, 2009.
- (2) Tony Bendall representing Jr. B Lacrosse says there are several inaccuracies in staff report P&R 09-009 (Summer 2009 Arena Plan) being presented to Council tonight. He feels that decisions on arena usage are too focused on money.

- (3) Bill Dawes from Colwood who is the registrar for Senior C Lacrosse says the group is disappointed that they cannot have access to the dry floor at the Archie Browning Sports Centre for the full month of July.
- (4) Muriel Dunn, 1193 Old Esquimalt Road says she is disappointed that the community does not fully support this coming summer's lacrosse tournament.

6.

DELEGATIONS

- (1) Rick Spencer, Dock and Shipyard Workers Union Local 1204
Re: Request for Recognition
Rick Spencer, Business Manager for the Dock and Shipyard Workers Union and Mike Geoghegan, resident of Esquimalt and employee of Esquimalt Shipyards reviewed some of the history of Esquimalt's shipbuilding tradition dating back more than 150 years. They stressed the importance of the shipbuilding industry to Esquimalt and the region and asked for Council's support of the Shipyards when they are dealing with provincial and federal government officials. (handouts of the presentation were provided)
- (2) John Turner, Esquimalt Harbour Seabus Ltd. Re: Business Proposal
Mr. Turner would like to start a Western Communities to Esquimalt Harbour Seabus service which could be in place by the end of summer if all goes well. He is seeking support from Council to acquire provincial and federal funding. He will forward more information directly to the Corporate Officer who will pass the information on to Council.

7.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (1) Committee of the Whole Report, February 9, 2009

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor Hundleby that the recommendation from the Committee of the Whole meeting held February 9, 2009 be approved.
The motion **CARRIED**.
- (2) Draft minutes from the Advisory Planning Commission meeting, February 17, 2009.

Moved by Councillor Hundleby seconded by Councillor Brame that the draft minutes from the Advisory Planning Commission meeting held February 17, 2009 be received.
The motion **CARRIED**.

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

Administration

- (1) Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaw Repeal and Obsolete Polices Repeal, Staff Report No. ADM-09-015

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor Hundleby that Esquimalt Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaw, 2007, No. 2635 be repealed in its entirety and that the following Council Policies be repealed:

ADM 35 - Terms of Reference – Environment Committee
ADM 36 – Terms of Reference – Cultural Committee
ADM 37 – Terms of Reference – Economic Committee
ADM 41 – Terms of Reference – Access Awareness
Advisory Committee

The motion **CARRIED**.

Parks and Recreation

- (2) Summer 2009 Arena Plan, Staff Report No. P&R-09-009

Moved by Councillor Hundleby seconded by Councillor Brame that Staff Report No. P&R-09-009 be received as information.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Opposed by Councillor Garrison and Councillor McIldoon

Development Services

- (3) Rezoning Application, 1191 Munro Street, Staff Report No. DEV-09-013

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor McIldoon that Bylaw No. 2704, which would amend Zoning Bylaw No. 2050 by changing the zoning designation of that portion of 1191 Munro Street [Lot AM 5, Section 11, Esquimalt District, Plan 5391] shown cross-hatched on Schedule 'A' of the amending bylaw from RS-1 [Single Family Residential] to RS-2 [Single Family Panhandle Residential], be read a first and second time.
The motion **CARRIED**.

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor McIldoon that the public hearing for Bylaw No. 2704 be scheduled for a date other than between April 1st and 18th.

Opposed by Councillor Hundleby, Councillor Garrison, Councillor Gaul and Mayor Desjardins.

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

Moved by Councillor Gaul, seconded by Councillor Garrison that a Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 2704 be scheduled.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Engineering and Public Works

- (4) Land Transfer from Transport Canada, Staff Report EPW 09-011

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor Hundleby that Council authorize the execution of the Transfer Agreement and the Contribution Agreement between the Township of Esquimalt and Transport Canada for the transfer a parcel of land in order to extend Head Street to provide municipal access and servicing to a property owned by Xhamasung Holdings LLP and to Department of National Defence properties.

The motion **CARRIED**.

(J. Byron, Manager of Recreation Services departed at 8:05 p.m.)

- (5) Miscellaneous Traffic and Parking Issues, Staff Report EPW 09-012

Moved by Councillor Hundleby seconded by Councillor Brame that the following traffic orders be approved:

- Traffic Order No. 1162 to prohibit parking on the south side of Craigflower Road between Garthland Road and Admirals Road
- Traffic Order No. 1163 to permit Residential Parking Only on sections of Esquimalt Road, Sturdee Street and on Craddock Street.
- Traffic Order No. 1164 to permit the installation of Stop signs at the intersection of Heald Avenue and Swinford Street and Heald Avenue and Kinver Street

The motion **CARRIED**.

Police Services

- (6) Memorandum from Victoria Police Department Inspector Les Sylven Re: E-mail from Surrey Resident Gerry Morden regarding SCAN Legislation

Moved by Councillor Brame seconded by Councillor Garrison that the February 11, 2009 Memorandum from Victoria Police Department Inspector Les Sylven Re: E-mail from Surrey Resident Gerry Morden regarding SCAN Legislation be received for information.

The motion **CARRIED**.

9. MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- (1) Mayor's Verbal Report on appointments to Committees, Boards and Commissions

Mayor Desjardins announced the following appointments to Council Advisory Committees, the Advisory Planning Commission and the Board of Variance:

Access Awareness Committee

- Emmy Labonte
- Meagan Duncan
- Joe Buczkowski
- Paul Newcombe
- Barbara Amberstone
- Brian Gray
- Lorne Argyle

Advisory Planning Commission

- Gerald Froese
- Ramona Scott
- Darwin Robinson
- Joanne Kimm
- Jaime Hilbert
- Rod Lavergne
- Ed Williams

Arts, Culture and Special Events Advisory Committee

- Janet Jones
- Nick Brame
- Moira Tait
- Avrielle Gosling
- Norman Swan

Board of Variance

- Gerald Froese
- Stephanie Dean
- Celia Owen

Environmental Advisory Committee

- Edwin Hubert
- Eileen Palmer
- Mark Salter
- Beth Sobeiszczyk
- Jo-Lee Bertand
- Lorraine Nygaard-Ishizaki
- Lawrence Dill

Heritage Advisory Committee

- Shelly Burchnall
- Colin MacLock
- Elizabeth Dill
- Sherri Robinson
- Jim MacMillan-Murphy

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

- Richard J. Fyfe
- Maureen Mitchell-Starkey

- Geoff Murray
- Marilyn Kraeker
- Willie MacGillivray

Moved by Councillor Brame seconded by Councillor McIldoon that the Committee appointments be approved.
The motion **CARRIED**.

Mayor Desjardins noted that appointments to the Centennial Celebrations Advisory Committee would be made soon.

- (2) Councillor Garrison provided background on the history of the Anacortes-Sidney Ferry.

Moved by Councillor Garrison, seconded by Councillor Brame that, taking into consideration the enormous economic impact of the Anacortes-Sidney ferry route on tourism and tourism employment in Northwest Washington and on Vancouver Island, Esquimalt Council hereby resolves to urge Washington State to view expenditures on this route as an investment in an important marine highway and a significant economic development tool and therefore to abandon plans to cancel the Washington State Ferries' Anacortes-Sidney route;

And further that the Mayor send a letter to the Governor of Washington State with copies to Chairs of the Transportation Committees and the Ways and Means Committees of both houses of the Washington State Legislature informing them of our opposition to the cancellation of Washington State Ferries' Anacortes-Sidney run and with copies to the Mayor of Sidney, the Mayor of Anacortes, and the Save Our Ferry Coalition.
The motion **CARRIED**.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Hundleby that items 1 through 4 as below, be received for information:

- (1) Letter from Maurine Karagianis, MLA dated February 3, 2009, Re: Proposed Bay Street Bus Route
- (2) Copy of letters from Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce sent to BC Transit and the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Re: Proposed Options to the Bay Street Crosstown Route
- (3) Letter from Victoria Regional Transit Commission, dated February 11, 2009, Re: Proposed new Bus Route
- (4) Letter from the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors (BC) dated February 6, 2009, Re: Thanks for support

for initiative to license home inspectors
The motion **CARRIED.**

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Councillor Brame that the letter from BC Housing dated February 6, 2009 Re: Make rent more affordable for families in your community be received for information.
The motion **CARRIED.**

Moved by Councillor McIlldoon, seconded by Councillor Brame that Letter from UBCM Presidents Committee, dated February 6, 2009, Re: Opportunity to Advance Civics in School Curriculum be received for information.
The motion **CARRIED.**
It was noted that more information on this item is needed.

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor Gaul that UBCM Urgent Notice to Members dated February 24, 2009 Re: Strategic Community Investment Funds and the UBCM Memorandum dated February 25, 2009 Re: Strategic Community Investment Funds be received for information.
The motion **CARRIED.**

Late Item Staff Report pertaining to the UBCM Memorandum dated February 25, 2009 Re: Strategic Community Investment Funds
Late item: Staff Report No. FIN-09-006 – SCI Funds Agreement

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Councillor Garrison that Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Administrator to ratify the Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement.
The motion **CARRIED.**

11. PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

- (1) Muriel Dunn, 1193 Old Esquimalt Road is concerned about the new logo for Esquimalt and asked why it wasn't presented at a public meeting.
- (2) Colleen Mathews, 1195 Munro Street stated that the new sidewalk at the corner of Kinver and Munro is very nice and asked if it could be extended as far as the corner at Munro and Lampson.
- (3) Rod Lavergne, 45 Fraser Street asked if the annual budget would be available on the Township's website. The response was "yes."

12.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Gaul that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
The motion **CARRIED**.

MAYOR OF THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
THIS DAY OF , 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT

LARRY RANDLE
CORPORATE OFFICER



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009
7:23 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Councillor Meagan Brame
Councillor Randall Garrison
Councillor Alison Gaul
Councillor Bruce McIldoon
Councillor Lynda Hundleby
Councillor Don Linge

STAFF:

T. Day, Chief Administrative Officer
G. Côté, Director of Engineering and Public Works
L. Randle, Corporate Officer (Recorder)
J. Byron, Manager of Recreation

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Desjardins called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

2. **LATE ITEMS**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Hundleby that the agenda be approved.

The motion **CARRIED**

4. **PUBLIC INPUT (On items listed on the Agenda)**

Excluding items which are or have been the subject of a Public Hearing

(1) Muriel Dunn, 1193 Old Esquimalt Road asked if a seismic upgrading study for the Archie Browning Sports Centre has ever been done and whether the Township plans to pay another consultant to help fill out the grant application for funding for the Archie Browning Sports Centre.

(2) Rod Lavergne, 45 Fraser Street expressed concern over the proposed \$12,000 expenditure for a seismic assessment to be done on the Archie Browning Sports Centre.

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

Corporate Services

(1) Infrastructure Grants: Building Canada Fund, Staff Report No. ADM-09-017

Moved by Councillor McIldoon, seconded by Councillor Hundleby that the Infrastructure Grant application for the Archie Browning Sports Centre Upgrade be prioritized as grant application #1 and the Infrastructure Grant application for the Sidewalk Master Plan Implementation being considered second priority.

The motion **CARRIED**

Moved by Councillor Gaul, seconded by Councillor Brame that Council authorize the submission of two grant applications under the British Columbia Building Canada Fund for the Archie Browning Sports Centre Upgrade and the Sidewalk Master Plan Implementation.

The motion **CARRIED**

Moved by Councillor McIldoon, seconded by Councillor Brame that Council authorize early expenditures of \$35,000 toward the Archie Browning Sports Centre Upgrade and \$10,000 for the Sidewalk Master Plan Implementation to develop adequate

detail to submit the applications.
The motion **CARRIED**

6.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

Excluding items which are or have been the subject of a Public Hearing.

Muriel Dunn, 1193 Old Esquimalt Road stated she is very delighted about the two grant applications and asked if the Archie Browning Sports Centre is upgraded could it last longer than 5-7 years? The Chief Administrative Officer replied that it would likely last longer than 5-7 years.

Ms. Dunn also stated that the Esquimalt Village Project should be a separate issue from the Archie Browning Sports Centre.

7.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Councillor McIlldoon that the meeting be adjourned at 7:54 p.m.
The motion **CARRIED**

MAYOR OF THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
THIS DAY OF , 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT

LARRY RANDLE
CORPORATE OFFICER



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1
Telephone (250) 414-7100 Fax (250) 414-7111

STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 9, 2009 **REPORT NO.** PR – 09 - 010
TO: Tom Day, Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Andy Katschor
SUBJECT: Tree Removal Permit Appeal # 1175 at 1107 Bewdley

RECOMMENDATION: That Council uphold the decision by Parks staff to deny the permit for the removal of the two trees or approve the removal on the condition that the resident plant four replacement trees on the property.

BACKGROUND: At the February 2, 2009 Regular Meeting of Council, resident Linda Barnes, presented her appeal to Council to reverse a staff decision denying the issuance of a tree cutting permit to remove one large Golden Cedar and a Deodar Cedar at 1107 Bewdley.

Council considered the approval and requested that staff canvas the neighbours on the removal of the trees and that Linda Barnes and staff discuss replacement trees if Council approves the removals of the trees.

A letter and along with a questionnaire were sent to 20 residences in the neighbourhood. There were 13 responses. All were in favour in allowing the removal of the Golden Cedar, and all but one were in favour in removing the Deodar Cedar.

On March 2, 2009 the undersigned met with resident Linda Barnes to discuss replacement trees. Ms. Barnes agreed that if the permit to remove the two trees was approved that she would plant replacements. The municipal arborist has requested that if the tree removals are approved, four (4) replacement trees from the Municipality's Protected Tree List (Bylaw 2664) be planted.

The two trees that are requested to be cut because of their maturity, have sequestered approximately .5 of a ton of carbon from the atmosphere. Four newly planted trees would sequester .01 of a ton of carbon per year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Katschor
Acting Director of Parks and Recreation Services

Approved for Council's consideration:

Tom Day, CAO

Dated: March 12/09



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1
Telephone (250) 414-7100 Fax (250) 414-7111

STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 11, 2009 **REPORT NO.** PR-09-011

TO: Tom Day, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Andy Katschor, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation Services

SUBJECT: Infrastructure Planning Grant Application
from the Provincial Ministry of Community Services
for the Environment House in Esquimalt Gorge Park

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support the infrastructure Planning Grant application from the Provincial Ministry of Community Services for the Environment House in Esquimalt Gorge with a motion and letter.

BACKGROUND

The Environment House was established in 2008 by a unique collaboration of community partners who shared a common vision of creating an environmental learning centre. It attracts visitors from all walks of life, and reconnects people with nature by providing a learning environment that reveals the vital connections between forests, wetlands, streams, the ocean and urban development in our everyday lives. The site is ideal for both indoor and outdoor programming.

The Township of Esquimalt owns the building (formerly operated as a concession stand) and SeaChange Marine Conservation Society leads and coordinates the environmental programming and education programs. As well, the Esquimalt Parks and Recreation Department run Summer Camps and Environmental programs through the Environment House.

An infrastructure planning grant would allow SeaChange:

- Research cost effective, sustainable building features (focused on energy efficiency, water conservation and reduction of greenhouse gases) that could be incorporated into the retrofit of the building and the adjacent lands.
- Engage an architect to develop the overall concept and create the building design and required engineered drawings.

If successful in obtaining the Infrastructure Planning Grant, it would then be possible to apply for funding to complete the renovations and achieve the overall vision for the Environment House in Esquimalt Gorge park.

The retrofit of the Gorge Waterway Discovery Centre will educate and inform visitors how the urban environment can impact our natural environment and things that they can do in their own home to protect the environment.

The overall concept of the retrofit is to interpret the sustainable building features used in the renovation and to incorporate these features into the overall interpretive and educational programming that is operated out of the centre. The sustainable building features incorporated will focus on water conservation, energy efficiency and reduction of green house gases, designing with nature / naturoscaping and climate change adaptation.

In Esquimalt's Green Building and Development Policy: The Township of Esquimalt embraces the principles of sustainable design and development for public and private developments, and encourages the use of green building technologies and practices in developments within Esquimalt.

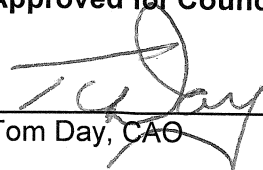
The grant is in the amount of \$10,000. Esquimalt's contribution will be staff time towards the project.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Katschor
Acting Director of Parks and Recreation Services

Approved for Council's consideration:



Tom Day, CAO

Dated: March 12/09



Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt

2009 - 2011 Strategic Plan (DRAFT)

**Focussing on community priorities, the Township of
Esquimalt provides quality municipal services
through open and innovative leadership**



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Community input received during Esquimalt's local government election process in November of 2008 emphasized the social aspect of our community in the context of economic strength and environmental responsibility: the three principles of sustainability.

Immediately following the election, Council worked to identify its priorities for the community for 2009 and beyond. Council emphasized the social and cultural issues facing the community: for example, retaining an ice skating facility and curling opportunities for Esquimalt residents; and addressing social issues burgeoning from changing societal expectation, future density increases and transforming demographics.



Council recognized that the cost of strengthening "community" requires economic growth. Growth will both help finance local government services and generate the economics necessary to enable a broader range of goods and services to be provided by the private sector.

Council also recognized that the community will undergo dramatic changes and the economy will not continue to flourish if we do not protect our environment. Council will therefore support climate action initiatives while at the same time take steps within our municipality to improve the environment.

While Council's initiatives are listed under individual principles of sustainability, many initiatives overlap and work towards achieving more than a single sustainability objective. Indeed, transportation initiatives are an excellent example of a single action impacting all three objectives. Transportation initiatives are therefore listed separately.

Council intends to review the actions within its strategic plan on a regular basis. The review will involve assessing progress, affirming or amending priorities and updating the plan as necessary.

Respectfully,

Mayor and Council
Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt



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Message from Mayor and Council

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The Township of Esquimalt's community vision, mission statement, organizational values, and commitment to sustainability principles provide the context for this strategic plan. These tools will guide Council and staff within the Township of Esquimalt in their daily work and in the achievement of strategic goals and objectives. They will also be used to gauge the success of initiatives outlined in this strategic plan.

VISION

Esquimalt is a diverse community, a desirable place to live, and an integral member of a larger region.

We encourage meaningful community participation and consultation to provide open and responsible decision-making. We enhance responsible economic opportunities and embrace sports, recreation, the arts, and the west coast lifestyle.

As we achieve the vision, we enhance our quality of life, enjoy health and safety, build upon our cultural heritage, revitalize our community, protect our natural environment, and foster our diversity.

MISSION STATEMENT

Focussing on community priorities, the Township of Esquimalt provides quality municipal services through open and innovative leadership.





ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

The following organizational values will guide Council and staff as they work towards achieving strategic goals and realizing Esquimalt's community vision:

Openness – We are open and transparent with our information, process, and communication to our customers, community, the public, and one another, except where clearly prohibited.

Fiscal and Performance Accountability – We are accountable to our community, the Municipality, and our work teams for the work we do and taxpayer's money we spend. We do this through long term planning, setting measurable performance goals, performance reviews, and regular feedback about our work to our leaders, community, and customers. We value hard work and achievement of organizational goals.

Team Work – We work as members of teams, understanding that individuals, divisions, and departments that work together achieve high quality results and provide exceptional service.

Respect – As public servants we treat all residents, customers, co-workers, and viewpoints with the respect that we would have accorded to ourselves.

Customer Service – We are in the business of providing exceptional service to our community, customers, and co-workers.

Integrity and Trust – We say what we mean and mean what we say. We honour our work and keep our commitments. We are worthy of the public's and each other's trust.

Innovation and Creativity – We strive for excellence as individuals and team members, and in the services that we provide to our community. We create a work environment in which we look for new solutions and experiment with innovative ways to work – even if they don't always succeed the first time. We recognize the need to be dynamic in meeting the community's changing needs. Each employee is given the opportunity to grow and develop.

Recognition – We recognize and are proud of achievements in the organization. We also recognize the need for balance in work and non-work as a value that will ultimately benefit our organization and the taxpayers of Esquimalt.

Stewardship – The work we do makes our community, the environment, and the world a better place to live for residents of today and future generations. We use our energy, skills, and resources to protect and nurture community assets for the greater good of all residents. We think and work locally, but our actions and results have global impact.



SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

The Council of the Township of Esquimalt supports the principles of human sustainability which includes the integration of economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

The most widespread definition of sustainability was established by the 1987 World Commission on the Environment, which is, “[to meet] the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

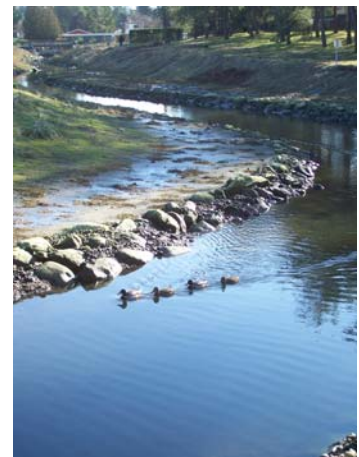
Council understands that we must not just strive for maintaining quality of life, but look towards improving it, so that future generations can prosper. To do this, Council will build the concept of sustainability into its operations and decision making processes by considering the longer term implications of its decisions on the environment and the community.

Council recognizes the future financial implications of climate change. The 2006 Stern Review on the economics of climate change found that it costs less to act now on mitigating climate change than later.

Council has demonstrated its commitment to climate change mitigation by signing on to the Province’s and Union of BC Municipalities’ British Columbia Climate Action Charter. The municipality will fulfill its commitments under the Charter by: achieving carbon neutrality in the municipality’s operations by 2012; decreasing the community’s greenhouse gas emissions; and creating a complete, compact and more energy efficient community.

This Council’s commitment to sustainability is reflected in the development of its strategic plan. The Township of Esquimalt’s strategic plan is divided into the three components of economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

Council is excited for the municipality to spearhead sustainability initiatives in its daily operations and to be a sustainability leader in both the local and global community.





COMMUNITY GOALS

Council of the Township of Esquimalt undertook a strategic objective and priority setting process in January/February of 2009.

Council's goal is to lead Esquimalt towards being a sustainable community. As such, Council's objectives focus on the three principles of sustainability: social improvement, economic growth and environmental responsibility.

Social Improvement

Council believes the opportunity to participate in ice based sports and activities is a critical element of Esquimalt's social fabric.

	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Eliminate option of no arena in the Esquimalt Village Plan	Council/Consultant	Immediate	
Provide more detailed economic advice on retention of Archie Browning Sports Centre arena, construction of new arena and possible phasing between the two	Consultant/CAO	2009	
Support continued curling opportunity for Esquimalt's residents	Council	2009 →	

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There are a number of existing community issues that will intensify with continued densification and these need to be addressed.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Resolve secondary suite issue including assigning fair costs	Director of Development Services/Director of Financial Services	2009	
Develop a comprehensive parking strategy to examine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secondary suites - Residential only permitting system - Trailers/boats - Public use versus private expectation - Adequacy of zoning bylaw parking space requirements - Applicability of meters - Adequacy of seniors/disabled parking - Paid permits 	Director of Development Services/Director of Engineering and Public Works	2010	



COMMUNITY GOALS

Social Improvement - Continued

Part of the uniqueness of Esquimalt in the Capital Region is its diversity of population. Council wants to facilitate opportunities for diversity.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
To examine opportunities to support "age in place" housing	Council/Director of Development Services	2010 →	
To encourage a variety of housing opportunities from rental, to affordable ownership, to luxury ownership	Council	2009 →	
To examine means of leveraging affordable housing both for rental and ownership	Director of Development Services	2010 →	



Esquimalt's heritage is an important component of our community and Council wants to identify and protect Esquimalt's significant heritage resources.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
To develop management programs to identify, conserve and interpret heritage resources	Director of Development Services	2009 →	
Implement heritage conservation programs	Director of Development Services	2010/2011 →	



COMMUNITY GOALS

Social Improvement - Continued

Council believes community health and safety is a top priority and believes that its improvement comes through a variety of means.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Improve the Emergency Planning Program by renewing training efforts for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council - Staff - Neighbourhood program 	Fire Chief	2009 →	
Develop an extreme weather protocol	Fire Chief	2009	
Improve Police Services by encouraging a provincial audit, lobbying for a more significant role on the Police Board for Esquimalt; and improving communication between Esquimalt Police Board appointee and Council	Mayor	2009	
Improve understanding of Victoria Police Department's Esquimalt Citizen's Advisory Committee	CAO/ Police Inspector-West Division	2009	
Support community based programs such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Living - ETAG - Blockwatch - CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) 	Council	2009	
Encourage community events and celebrations	Council	2009	
Obtain better understanding of the relationship between the municipality and its school districts and the opportunities for maximizing use of public facilities	Recreation Manager	2009	
Encourage the establishment of more health facilities and health professionals in Esquimalt	Mayor	2009	
Work towards ensuring the community's pedestrian network is safe for all users including those with disabilities	Director of Engineering and Public Works	2009	
Consider "accessibility" as an amenity for density bonusing	Director of Development Services	2009/2010	



COMMUNITY GOALS

Social Improvement - Continued

Council believes that a multi-pronged approach to communication will maximize awareness of community issues.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Be more open to additional public input at Council and COTW meetings	Mayor/Council/Manager of Corporate Services	2009 →	
Continue Communications Manager Position	Council	2009 →	
Continue to improve website	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009 →	
Continue hosting/participating in community face to face events	Council/Manager of Corporate Services	2009 →	
Review means of community consultation (e.g., Facebook, blogs, school visits, event TV's @ school, grocery store, ABSC)	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009 →	
Update community contacts in the Active Living Guide	Recreation Manager	2009 →	
Continue program of news releases and Community Newsletter	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009 →	
Use auto-email data bases to keep user groups informed (e.g., ABSC)	Recreation Manager/Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009 →	
Electronically circulate all committee minutes to all committee members	Manager of Corporate Services	2009 →	
Consider acquisition of electronic signboard for ABSC	Recreation Manager/Council	2009	



Economic Growth

Council believes it needs to re-invigorate, give firm direction to and expedite the Village Core project.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Ensure plan provides for phasing. Proceed quickly with an early phase (e.g., old hall/works yard site)	Director of Development Services/Consultant/Council	2009 2010/2011	
Review the possibility within the Village Core Plan for a future cultural attraction and hotel site	Consultant/Council	2009	
Consider high density/multi-use opportunities including multi-family residential/commercial in conjunction with public recreational	Consultant	2009	
Consider underground parking with room for significant community events (e.g., Buccaneer Days)	Consultant	2009	
Arrive at final decision on location of protective services building prior to any further expenditures	Consultant/Council	2009	
Council to meet with consultants early for review of progress to date and clarification of future direction and timeline	CAO/Consultants	2009	
Discuss how to improve community interest, knowledge and participation perhaps with additional technical advice	Consultants/Council/ CAO	2009	





COMMUNITY GOALS

Economic Growth - Continued

Council believes that additional population through densification of the broader Village Core area will generate new commercial, retail and business opportunities.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Host a community information session to discuss impacts, benefits and costs of densification	Director of Development Services	2009	
Review OCP if greater densification receives positive feedback	Council/Director of Development Services	2009	

There are specific opportunities Council would like to explore that may impact Esquimalt's Village Core.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Explore the opportunities for requiring, providing, or encouraging the broad use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "wireless" technology; • green development (including on-site sewage treatment or integrated resource management); and • alternate energy technologies in the Village Core. 	IT Manager, Director of Development Services, Director of Engineering and Public Works, Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2010	

Council believes additional opportunities exist for economic growth from tourism. Council intends to:

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Inventory and understand opportunities presented by the routes tourists arrive in Esquimalt	Director of Development Services	2009	
Inventory and advertise tourist opportunities	Director of Development Services	2009	
Develop new tourist opportunities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - artisan tour - heritage home tour - garden tour 	Director of Development Services	2009	
Examine new opportunities that may exist given our proximity to the ocean, in particular at Fleming Beach, Westbay Walkway and the Gorge.	Director of Development Services	2009/2010	



COMMUNITY GOALS

Economic Growth - Continued

Council would like to partner with other associations and businesses to:

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Encourage a shop local campaign	Chamber of Commerce Liaisons	2009	
Develop a community promotion campaign	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2010	
Participate in promotion of community events	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009	
Raise profile of community events through Council attendance	Council	2009 →	

Council needs to understand its taxing policies' impact on business and development.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Develop comprehensive tax comparison data	Director of Financial Services	2009	
Review opportunities for tax incentives for business growth	Director of Financial Services	2009	

Council needs to examine its regulations to encourage appropriate development.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Encourage Bed & Breakfast opportunities	Director of Development Services	2010	
Promote opportunities at Westbay for retail, restaurant, tourist and evening activity uses as identified in the Official Community Plan	Council	2009 →	
Facilitate Industrial Park growth/densification	Director of Development Services	2010	



COMMUNITY GOALS

Economic Growth - Continued

Council is concerned the property tax is the only substantive form of revenue for the municipal corporation. Council wants to review diversified opportunities for revenue generation.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Consider legalizing secondary suites and charging appropriate license and user fees (e.g., business license, and inspection, sewer, garbage, and parking fees)	Director of Development Services/Director of Financial Services	2009	
Review opportunities for generating additional operating revenues from parks and other properties (Kayak launch, etc.)	Parks Manager	2010	
Investigate practicality and economics of acquiring ownership of Esquimalt's water system	Director of Engineering and Public Works/CAO	2010/2011	
Investigate opportunities for establishing own energy utility	Director of Engineering and Public Works /Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2010	
Review opportunity for a "coffee cart"/tourist information service at the terminus of Westbay Walkway	Director of Development Services/Parks Manager	2009/2010	
Review opportunity for commercial activity in Saxe Point	Parks Manager	2011	
Review expanding Mayor's role to include promotion and Economic Development	Mayor/CAO	2009	



Environmental Responsibility

Council supports the philosophy behind the Climate Action Charter aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and producing carbon offsets.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Prepare report summarizing Council's non-binding commitment under the BC Climate Action Charter	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009	
Prepare a strategy for complying with commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter	Manager of Communications and Sustainability/CAO	2009	
Utilize knowledge of DND professionals to assist in identifying initiatives	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009	
Review opportunities for Integrated Resource Management in Esquimalt	Director of Engineering and Public Works	2009/2010	
Review opportunities for alternate energy sources for municipal facilities (research The Land Conservancy's experience)	Director of Engineering and Public Works/ Recreation Manager	2009/2010	
Review opportunities for urban forest expansion as a carbon offset with a community planting/maintenance partnership component	Parks Manager	2009/2010	





COMMUNITY GOALS

Environmental Responsibility - Continued

Council believes that resolving the sewage treatment issue is a priority for the region.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Develop a cohesive policy statement outlining Council's perspective on sewage treatment including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal trucks - No loss of green space - Not at Macaulay Point - Improved source control - Integrated resource management - Affordable solution - Community Mitigation 	Mayor	2009	
Utilize STAG's energies and resources to inform Council and the community	Mayor	2009	
Present update on outcome of 5 year capital plan to improve the sewage collection system and develop strategy to tackle the connections component of the system	Director of Engineering and Public Works/Council	2009	



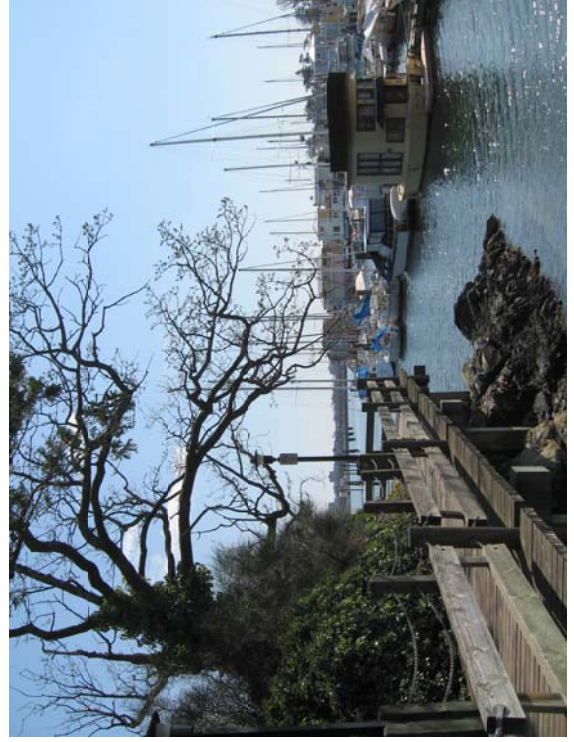


COMMUNITY GOALS

Environmental Responsibility - Continued

Council believes there are numerous other means of encouraging environmental stewardship.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Require a "green features" report from the developer for every development application and require adherence to same	Director of Development Services	2009	
Advertise "greening grants" available from the province for private property owners and have the Environment Advisory Committee research availability and assist in promotion	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009/2010	
Prepare a report reviewing jurisdiction, environmental standards and compliance of Esquimalt's marinas	Director of Engineering and Public Works/Manager of Corporate Services	2010	
Have the corporation and Council lead sustainability practices by example at every feasible opportunity	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2009	
Review opportunity to make composters available to the general public at cost.	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2010	
Prepare a report outlining long-term, hard costs of climate change to the municipality	Manager of Communications and Sustainability	2010	
Encourage the establishment of community gardens	Parks Manager	2009	





COMMUNITY GOALS

Social Improvement, Economic Growth and Environmental Responsibility

Improvements in internal and external transportation links clearly reap social, economic and environmental benefits and thereby improve the community through supporting all three principles of sustainability.

Council supports and encourages improved bus service.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Encourage extended service hours to downtown	Council	2009	
Encourage improved connections to the North and the West Shore	Council	2009	
Support the proposed Bay Street service connecting to DND base along Esquimalt Road	Council	2009	
Encourage greater frequency and extended hours of the Munro Street bus	Council	2009	
Partner with DND and Dockyard to encourage Transit to better service these major regional employers	Council	2009	
Pursue Esquimalt representation on the Victoria Regional Transit Commission even if it means re-constituting the Board (partner with West Shore communities)	Mayor	2009	





COMMUNITY GOALS

Social Improvement, Economic Growth and Environmental Responsibility - Continued

Council supports a number of other initiatives which will lead to improvements in various transportation modes including walking, cycling, bussing and ferry service.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Encourage the CRD's "railtrail" project and strive to ensure it has adequate lighting	Council	2009	
Adopt the Pedestrian Charter as an amendment to Esquimalt's OCP	Director of Development Services	2009	
Complete Phase 1 and 2 of the Craigflower Road Upgrade	Director of Engineering and Public Works	2009/2010	
Complete the Admirals/Colville Intersection Upgrade	Director of Engineering and Public Works	2009/2010	
Encourage the Victoria Harbour Ferries to offer a commuter package to Esquimalt residents	Mayor	2009	
Review and ensure the accessibility of the Esquimalt Industrial Area for truck traffic	Director of Engineering and Public Works	2011	
Plan for the future upgrade of Lyall Street considering pedestrians, cyclists, trucking and parking	Director of Engineering and Public Works	2011	
Review potential for upgrading the blocks of Esquimalt Road between the two improved areas	Director of Engineering and Public Works	2011	
Encourage the City of Victoria to improve Esquimalt Road east of Dominion Street	Mayor/Director of Engineering and Public Works	2009	
Develop an infrastructure maintenance plan	Director of Engineering and Public Works	2010	

Council believes that commuter rail transit could provide an outstanding opportunity for Esquimalt.

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress to date
Seek an accurate capital and operating cost model for such a service along with details regarding expected sources of revenue and form of governance	Councillor Garrison/Mayor	2009 →	
Review opportunities for a second stop in Esquimalt in addition to the Dockyards' stop	Councillor Garrison/Mayor	2009 →	
Ensure we have examined and amended our land use planning tools before commencement of any rail service	Director of Development Services	2010	



By outlining its priorities Council focuses its two most significant resources, human and fiscal, to achieve Council's goal of community sustainability through specific actions and objectives. Council's budget, staff's departmental work plans and regular progress reports provided by senior municipal staff to Council will ensure organizational focus on accomplishing this plan's goals and attaining Esquimalt's community vision.





COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

From: Meeting of March 9, 2009

To: Meeting of Municipal Council – March 16, 2009

At its meeting held on Monday, March 9, 2009 the Committee of the Whole considered the following matter and resolved that the recommendation as outlined be submitted to Council for consideration:

Development Services

- (1) **Development Permit with Variances, 1405 Esquimalt Road [Lot 1, Suburban Lot 26, Esquimalt District, Plan VIP73731], Staff Report No. DEV-09-014**

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor McIlldoon that the application for a Development Permit, limiting the form and character of development to that shown on architectural and landscape plans prepared by Praxis Architects Inc., stamped "Received January 15, 2009", and including the following variances to Zoning Bylaw No. 2050 and Parking Bylaw No. 2011, for the proposed 41 unit multi-family residence located on Lot 1, Suburban Lot 26, Esquimalt District, Plan VIP73731 [1405 Esquimalt Road], be forwarded to Council with a recommendation of approval.

Zoning Bylaw No. 2050, Section 44.2(3) – Building Height – a 2.5 metre increase in the permitted Height, from 11 metres to 13.5 metres.

Zoning Bylaw No. 2050, Section 44.2(6) – Useable Open Space – a waiver from the requirement that 7.5% of the parcel area be provided for the use of the residents for outdoor leisure activities.

Parking Bylaw No. 2011, Section 13(1)(a)(v) – Number Of Off-Street Parking Spaces – a reduction in the required number of parking spaces from 1.3 spaces per dwelling unit to 1.17 spaces per dwelling unit [i.e. from a total of 54 spaces to 48 spaces].

Parking Bylaw No. 2011, Section 11(1) – Visitor Parking – a reduction in the required number of dedicated visitor parking spaces from 1 of every 4 to 1 of every 7 [i.e. from a total of 12 visitor spaces to 7 visitor spaces]

The motion **CARRIED**.



Partnering for Success

Each day brings new challenges to the leaders of Canada's municipal governments, who find themselves on the leading edge of change.

FCM's 72nd Annual Conference and Municipal Expo™ will bring municipal decision-makers together with experts in a broad range of disciplines to share ideas and best practices about how to deliver a high quality of life to communities large and small. You'll learn how to tackle environmental, social and economic challenges in informative workshops and by networking with your peers from across the country.

You'll also hear from the leaders of the Government of Canada and federal parties in the House of Commons how they see the future of the federal-municipal relationship. Be there to let them know how important this relationship is to Canada's future and that good governance is about all orders of government working together as partners to deliver efficient and effective programs and services to Canadians.

Come to Whistler to learn, share insights and experiences and make your voice heard on Parliament Hill.



“This is the best way for local politicians to learn what their job is all about; it’s also the best way to learn new things and best practices around many topics.”

Councillor Craig Speirs,
Maple Ridge, B.C.

Plan to Attend

FCM’s annual conference and trade show help municipal leaders tap into a vital network of resources, policies and strategies. From informative seminars and workshops to thought-provoking plenary sessions, everyone with a stake in the municipal sector will benefit from attending Canada’s largest municipal event.

Budget Now!

Be sure to include FCM’s annual conference and trade show in your upcoming budget. The conference and trade show are designed to give political leaders and senior staff an opportunity to engage in professional development. Consider sending a team from your community to learn about and take home leading-edge innovations and solutions.

And don’t forget the biggest municipal trade show in Canada!

Where else can you find information on energy-efficient municipal fleet vehicles, innovative wastewater collection systems, solutions for traffic and parking problems, and best practices on how to fight climate change—all under one roof?

FCM’s 2008 Municipal Expo™ in Quebec City was a great success. Delegates browsed among booths displaying a range of products and services geared to streamlining municipal operations, saving costs and enhancing service delivery.

Councillor Shelagh Montgomery of Yellowknife, N.W.T., said she found that one of the main advantages of attending FCM’s annual conference is “finding out about new products and technologies available for communities.” And Councillor Kim Richter of Langley, B.C., added that she enjoys the Municipal Expo™ because “I get great ideas there.”

Join us in Whistler—it’s sure to be better than ever.

Welcome to Whistler

Nestled in the Coast Mountains, Whistler is a friendly ski town and home to almost 10,000 residents. One of the many things that make Whistler so special is two unbelievable mountains – Whistler and Blackcomb. Side-by-side, they represent over 8,000 acres of skiable terrain and the highest lift-serviced vertical terrain of any ski area in North America.



Whistler is also a year-round destination and consistently ranked the number one resort in North America. Whistler features epic skiing conditions, four championship golf courses, more than 200 shops, 90 restaurants and bars, accommodations galore, hiking trails, spas and arguably the best mountain bike park in the world. In short, Whistler has everything you could possibly need for the time of your life – and so much more.

The vision for Whistler is to be the premier mountain resort community as we move toward sustainability. To achieve our vision, Whistler established Whistler 2020 which is a strategic description and process for moving towards success to the year 2020, and beyond. It is an ambitious step on a longer journey to a sustainable future.

Whistler also has an Olympic dream. As the Host Mountain Resort for the 2010 Olympic

and Paralympic Winter Games, Whistler is honoured to represent Canada. In June, Whistler invites you to come and help celebrate the countdown to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Whistler.

The new ski jump, cross-country and sliding sport venues are truly spectacular. Our athlete village will be nearly complete and will be transformed into our newest neighbourhood after the Games. By partnering for success with the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Whistler has successfully integrated 2010 Games plans into our Whistler 2020 vision by building sustainable community legacies through the Games journey.

The 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games are Canada's Games. We invite you to come to Whistler and share in the excitement and join the celebration!

FCM's 72nd Annual Conference - At a Glance

Registration opens

Thursday, June 4 at 1:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies

Friday morning, June 5

Municipal ExpoTM

Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6

Welcoming Reception

Friday evening, June 5

Resolutions Plenary

Saturday, June 6

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, June 7

Dinner and Dance

Sunday, June 7

Closing Delegates' Breakfast

Monday, June 8

2009 Early Bird Registration Fees

(before March 31, 2009)

Member	\$675.00
Non-Member	\$800.00
Expo Member	\$500.00
Expo Non-Member	\$600.00

2009 Regular Registration Fees

Member	\$800.00
Non-Member	\$950.00
Expo Member	\$600.00
Expo Non-Member	\$720.00

For registration information

call: (613) 907-6322
or e-mail: register@fcm.ca

For Conference information

call: (613) 907-6349
or e-mail: conference@fcm.ca

For Municipal ExpoTM information

call: (613) 907-6348
or e-mail: tradeshow@fcm.ca

To reserve hotel rooms in Whistler, please contact the FCM Housing Bureau at:

www.eSourceEvent.com/FCM2009

Agenda

February 9, 2009

To: Mayor and Council/Chair and Board

It is vital that all communities share the responsibility of effective emergency management prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. To learn more about your role as an elected official, we invite you to attend one the emergency management workshops scheduled throughout BC this spring.

You, your council or board members, the city/town/regional district administrator and Emergency Program Coordinator are invited to attend these no-fee workshops. Workshops are being hosted by the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), a branch within Emergency Management BC (EMBC), Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The workshops are an opportunity for all elected officials and administrators to learn more about the importance of emergency planning in its entirety and to ask questions and to build regional connections.

The half-day workshops will be delivered by regional PEP managers and supported by EMBC staff. Some of the topics that will be covered include:

- Your role and obligations in emergency preparedness and response as a local authority under the statutory requirements of the *Emergency Program Act*;
- Provincial support before, during and after an emergency or disaster;
- When and why a declaration of a state of local emergency would or should be used;
- The importance of emergency planning and how to personalize your community's emergency plan through hazard identification, risk assessment and vulnerability analysis, and how community preparedness can be built into your community's strategic goals;
- Available provincial financial aid for individuals, farms, businesses and local governments to help with disaster-related damaged essential items, for which insurance was not reasonable and readily available;
- The four pillars of emergency management; prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery;
- Cost-shareable initiatives to assist municipalities, regional districts and First Nations in funding eligible emergency response projects such as emergency plans, exercises, training, and the purchase of emergency communications equipment;
- Grants to assist communities with plan development, exercising and training;
- Provincial support to plan for recovery for communities and businesses;
- Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers (PSLV) and how they serve BC communities in PSLV programs such as search and rescue (air, land and inland water), emergency radio communications, road rescue, emergency social services and PEP air services, and;
- Emergency management training opportunities.

... / 2

The preliminary workshop schedule is:

Elected Officials Workshops 2009

Date	Location	Venue	Time	PEP Region
1. Wed, Mar 11	Kelowna	Best Western 2402 Highway 97 North	10:00 – 14:00	CTL
2. Thurs, Mar 12	Vernon	Best Western 3914 - 32nd Street	10:00 – 14:00	CTL
3. Fri, Mar 13	Barriere	Barriere Municipal Office 4936 Barriere Town Road	10:00 – 14:00	CTL
4. Mon, Mar 23	Fort St John	Northern Grand Quality Inn 9830 – 100 th Avenue	09:30 – 13:30	NEA
5. Tues, Mar 24	Abbotsford	Legacy Sports Centre 32470 Haida Drive	10:00 – 14:00	SWE
6. Wed, Mar 25	Whistler	Spruce Grove Field House, 7328 Kirkpatrick Way	10:00 – 14:00	SWE
7. Wed, Mar 25	Prince George	Ramada Hotel Downtown 444 George Street	10:00 – 14:00	NEA
8. Thurs, Mar 26	Williams Lake	Overlander Hotel 1118 Lakeview Crescent	10:00 – 14:00	NEA
9. Thurs, Mar 26	Vancouver	UBC Robson Square 800 Robson Street	10:00 – 14:00	SWE
10. Wed, Apr 1	Sunshine Coast	Sunshine Coast Regional District 1975 Field Road, Sechelt	10:00 – 14:00	SWE
11. Tues, Apr 7	Castlegar	Castlegar Fire hall 460 Columbia Avenue	10:00 – 14:00	SEA
12. Wed, Apr 8	Cranbrook	Regional District of East Kootenay 19 – 24 th Ave South	10:00 – 14:00	SEA
13. Wed, Apr 15	Burns Lake	Burns Lake Volunteer Fire Hall 15 – 3 rd Ave	10:00 – 14:00	NWE
14. Thurs, Apr 16	Terrace	Terrace Fire Hall 3215 Eby Street	10:00 – 14:00	NWE
15. Fri, Apr 17	Queen Charlotte	Queen Charlotte Community Club 138 Bay Street	13:00 – 17:00	NWE
16. Tues, Apr 21	Campbell River	Coast Discovery Inn & Marina 975 Shopper's Row	10:00 – 14:00	VIR
17. Wed, Apr 22	Powell River	Powell River Town Centre Hotel 4660 Joyce Avenue	14:00 – 18:00	VIR
18. Thurs, Apr 23	Nanaimo	Vancouver Island Conference Centre - Nanaimo Room 101 Gordon Street	10:00 – 14:00	VIR
19. Fri, Apr 24	Victoria	Executive EuroStar Hotel Topaz Room 3020 Blanshard Street	10:00 – 14:00	VIR
20. Wed, May 13	Bella Colla	Bella Coola Valley Inn 411 Mackenzie Highway	10:00 – 14:00	NEA

To register for a workshop near you, please complete and return the attached registration form at least two weeks before the proposed date of the workshop you wish to attend. Please register at the appropriate PEP regional office.

Refreshments and where appropriate, light lunches will be provided.

Working together we can ensure safer communities for all British Columbians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cam Filmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cam Filmer
Executive Director
Provincial Emergency Program

Attachment: Registration Form

pc: City/Town/Regional District Administrator
PEP Senior and Regional Managers

**ELECTED OFFICIAL
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP
2009 Registration Form**

Workshop Location: _____

Workshop Date: _____

Name (please print): _____
(first) (last)

Position: (elected official, administrator, Emergency Program Coordinator.): _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

Workshop Locations:

Date	Location	Venue	Time	PEP Region
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20. Wed, May 13	Bella Colla	Bella Coola Valley Inn 411 Mackenzie Highway	10:00 – 14:00	NEA

See below for contact information to register your attendance at the appropriate PEP regional office.

PEP Regional Contacts for Elected Officials Workshops 2009

Vancouver Island Region (VIR)

Clare Fletcher – Regional Manager
PO Box 9201 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J1
Tel: 250-952-4904
Fax: 250-952-4304
Email: clare.fletcher@gov.bc.ca

North West Region (NWE)

Maurie Hurst – Regional Manager
Suite 1B – 3215 Eby Street
Terrace BC V8G 2X8
Tel: 250-615-4800
Fax: 250-615-4817
Email: maurie.hurst@gov.bc.ca

Central Region (CTL)

Sue Saunders – Regional Manager
1255-D Dalhousie Drive
Kamloops BC V2C 5Z5
Tel: 250-371-5253
Fax: 250-371-5246
Email: sue.saunders@gov.bc.ca

South East Region (SEA)

Gundula Brigl – Regional Manager
403 Vernon Street
Nelson BC V1L 4E6
Tel: 250-354-5904
Fax: 250-354-6561
Email: gundula.brigl@gov.bc.ca

North East Region (NEA)

Bob Kelly – Regional Manager
(Fort St John)
Michael Higgins – Regional Manager
(Prince George and Williams Lake)
3235 Westwood Drive
Prince George BC V2N 1S4
Tel: 250-612-4172
Fax: 250-612-4171
Email: robert.kelly@gov.bc.ca
Email: michael.higgins@gov.bc.ca

South West Region (SWE)

Mike Andrews – Regional Manager
14275 – 96th Street
Surrey BC V3V 7Z2
Tel: 604-586-4390
Fax: 604-586-4334
Email: mike.andrews@gov.bc.ca

Mayor Barb Desjardins
Mayor of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road, Victoria BC
V9A 3P1

*Agenda
Alays*

RECEIVED

FEB 24 2009

CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

February 12, 2009

Dear Mayor Barb Desjardins,

I am writing this letter, on behalf of the Times Colonist to invite you to participate in Canwest Canspell, the country's only truly national spelling bee competition. Launched by Canwest Global Communications Corp. in 2005, the program is part of the company's ongoing strategy to increase learning and literacy levels among Canada's youth.

The Times Colonist is proud to sponsor the Vancouver Island Canwest Canspell Regional Spelling Bee. The Canspell program for 2009 involves all ten provinces and features 22 regional spelling bees in communities including Victoria and Vancouver Island. Regional events will determine 22 young Canadians who will participate in the national final in Ottawa, April 16 and 17, 2009.

In addition to the Canadian competition, Canspell sends the regional winners to Washington D.C. where they will represent their cities and our country in the widely known Scripps National Spelling Bee competition. This means five will represent British Columbia— our regional winners from Prince George, Kelowna, Kamloops, Vancouver and Victoria.

There were approximately 250,000 young Canadians registered to take part in Canwest Canspell this year. Regional bees are being held in Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Kamloops, Prince George, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, Cape Breton, Saint John, Charlottetown, and St. John's, leading up Canada's national final in April.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your endorsement of our initiative. A letter of support to school boards, an email message to directors of education or a letter to the editor sent to the Times Colonist would be greatly appreciated.

Our intent is to celebrate the efforts of all participants and to promote the students as stars in their own right – acknowledging and shining light on their efforts in a way usually reserved for athletes and celebrities. The participating

newspapers, the Canspell website and affiliated Global stations will cover the events and help increase the profiles of our students.

The preliminary rounds will be webcast live on the Canspell website (www.canspell.com) starting at approximately 1:00 p.m. (EST) on April 17; the final rounds will be televised on Global on April 18, 2009.

As well as focusing on learning and literacy, the program strives to develop study skills, self-esteem, and sportsmanship among the participants. The program reinforces the importance of reading, writing and scholarship – intellectual pursuits that help enrich lives.

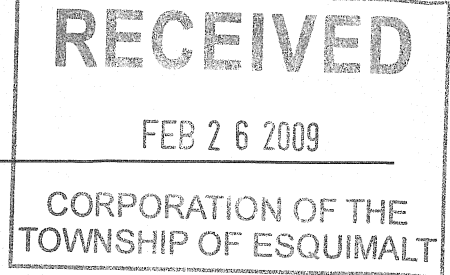
Our events planners will be in touch with you regarding your possible attendance at the regional bees taking place on Vancouver Island. Your involvement Mayor Barb Desjardins will underscore the importance you and your colleagues place on literacy and education in this province.

Sincerely,

Bob McKenzie
Publisher, Times Colonist



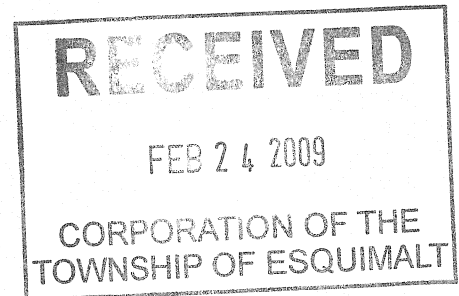
CITY OF BURNABY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DEREK R. CORRIGAN
MAYOR



2009 February 18

Mayor and Councillors
Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Agenda



Dear Mayor and Councillors:

SUBJECT: Burnaby School Lands
Item 01, Manager's Report, Council 2009 January 12

Burnaby City Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2009 January 12, received the *enclosed* Burnaby School Lands report from the Director Planning & Building with regard to a Ministry of Education Order titled "*Disposal of Lands or Improvements Order*".

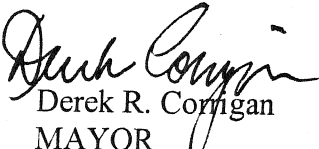
Council acknowledges that subsequent to the preparation of this report, the original and cited "*Disposal of Lands or Improvements Order*", referred in the report, was revised by the Minister of Education. However, we believe that the new Order and related policies continue to present the potential for conflict or disagreement amongst local municipal governments, School Districts and the Provincial Government. The concerns are primarily related to recognition of municipal government and community financial and other interests in school lands, and the potential for conflicting interests regarding local community plans and zoning on disposition of school assets. The recommendations adopted by Council as part of the Burnaby School Lands report on 2009 January 12, reflect the concerns of this Council, and the requests for further consultation with local governments and amendment of the *Disposal of Lands or Improvements Order* remain applicable.

Burnaby City Council adopted the following recommendations contained within the staff report:

1. **"THAT** Council, through the Office of the Mayor, write to the Provincial Government through the Minister of Education to request amendment of the Ministerial Order titled "*Disposal of Lands or Improvements Order*", as outlined in this report, to:
 - a) require consultation with and agreement of local government for school lands and facilities to be listed as surplus to school and community needs;

- b) make all surplus lands and facilities available for purchase by the local government prior to making the properties available for Provincial uses;
 - c) seek local government agreement to proposed future uses of surplus school lands prior to the sale, disposal or transfer of the school lands to the Province or other interested private parties;
 - d) require consultation with the local government to determine and document local government and community contributions made towards the creation of school land and facility assets considered for disposal;
 - e) ensure that the proceeds from disposals attributable to local taxpayers are either vested directly in new local school lands and facilities, as originally intended, or returned to the local government;
 - f) recognize lands contributed to School Districts 'in trust' for school purposes, and maintain those lands for school purposes or return the lands to the local government as appropriate; and
 - g) remove the discretion for the Minister to arbitrarily allocate funds generated from the sale of school assets to the Provincial Government.
2. **THAT** Council authorize staff to pursue implementation of the actions outlined in Section 4.0 of this report to protect the City's financial, legal and Community Plan interests in Burnaby School lands.
 3. **THAT** Council authorize staff to draft a UBCM resolution regarding the protection of local Municipal interests in school lands and assets for consideration at the 2009 UBCM convention.
 4. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to:
 - the Burnaby Board of Education, School District #41
 - the LANDS Group (Attn: Jessica Van der Veen, 2465 Hamiota Street, Victoria, BC V8R 2N1)
 - Burnaby MLA's
 - The Minister responsible for Labour and Citizens Services (ARES)
 - The Minister of Education
 - All Members of the Union of B.C. Municipalities.”

Very truly yours,


Derek R. Corrigan
MAYOR

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2009 January 06

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING **FILE:** 2165-11
Reference: Burnaby School District

SUBJECT: BURNABY SCHOOL LANDS

PURPOSE: To advise Council of the historical ownership, acquisition and inventory of School lands in Burnaby and outline the potential implications of the Ministry of Education "*Disposal of Lands or Improvement Order*".

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council, through the Office of the Mayor, write to the Provincial Government through the Minister of Education to request amendment of the Ministerial Order titled "*Disposal of Lands or Improvement Order*", as outlined in this report, to:
 - a) require consultation with and agreement of local government for school lands and facilities to be listed as surplus to school and community needs;
 - b) make all surplus lands and facilities available for purchase by the local government prior to making the properties available for Provincial uses;
 - c) seek local government agreement to proposed future uses of surplus school lands prior to the sale, disposal or transfer of the school lands to the Province or other interested private parties;
 - d) require consultation with the local government to determine and document local government and community contributions made towards the creation of school land and facility assets considered for disposal;
 - e) ensure that the proceeds from disposals attributable to local taxpayers are either vested directly in new local school lands and facilities, as originally intended, or returned to the local government;
 - f) recognize lands contributed to School Districts 'in trust' for school purposes, and maintain those lands for school purposes or return the lands to the local government as appropriate; and
 - g) remove the discretion for the Minister to arbitrarily allocate funds generated from the sale of school assets to the Provincial Government.

2. **THAT** Council authorize staff to pursue implementation of the actions outlined in Section 4.0 of this report to protect the City's financial, legal and Community Plan interests in Burnaby School lands.
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 - Burnaby MLA's
 - The Minister responsible for Labour and Citizens Services (ARES)
 - The Minister of Education
 - All Members of the Union of B.C. Municipalities

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At its regular meeting of 2008 April 25, Council received correspondence from the LANDS Group. This group is a community-based organization of citizens opposed to the Provincial Ministry of Education's "*Disposal of Land or Improvements Order*" given its potential implications for public school lands in British Columbia. Arising from discussion of the correspondence, and in relation to the cited Order, Council requested staff to report on the City's current and historical interests in all Burnaby school lands and buildings.

In 2007, the Provincial Government, in its Speech from the Throne, pledged to establish a new process to "*ensure that schools or school lands are used for their highest and best use for maximum public benefit.*" In response to this policy announcement, the B.C. Ministry of Education issued a Ministerial policy titled "*Disposal of Land or Improvements Order*". The Order contains regulations and procedures for the disposal of surplus school lands and improvements and is applicable to all the land and building assets administered by all School Districts in the Province. The Order establishes requirements and procedures for the sale or long-term lease of school lands and improvements that are identified as not being required for educational purposes.

In response to Council's request, this report outlines the content and implications of the Order in relation to the City's current and historical role and involvement in providing for school sites as

an integral part of the planning and development of the City. Additionally, this report provides the outcome of a detailed inventory of the City's school sites and the history of school site acquisition and ownership. Through this research, it has been concluded that Burnaby school lands have been acquired and secured through significant financial and land contributions made by Burnaby residents through various City and School District initiatives to support the educational, park and open space and neighbourhood planning interests of the community.

In light of the significant role of local residents and the City in contributing to the acquisition of its school lands, this report raises a number of significant concerns with the Ministerial Order that calls for the disposal of surplus school lands and facilities without adequate consultation with or recognition of the interests of local governments. In response, this report calls for amendments to the Ministerial Order to recognize local government investment and interests in school lands, proposes initiatives to protect Burnaby's interests, and recommends preparation of a UBCM Resolution on the matter.

2.0 PROVINCIAL MINISTERIAL ORDER

The B.C. Ministry of Education issued a Ministerial Order in 2007 outlining new regulations for the disposal of surplus lands or improvements by local Boards of Education. The Order applies to all school lands (other than those acquired through Crown Grant) and improvements that are deemed as not being required for future educational purposes, and establishes procedures and policies for disposal of the assets either through sale or lease for more than five years. Key components of the Ministerial Order include:

- **Inventory of Surplus School Properties:** Each year, a Board of Education is required to provide the Ministry of Education with an inventory of any surplus property available for disposition. The inventory must state whether the Board has decided to retain or dispose of the surplus property listed.
- **Assessment of Contribution:** For each property or asset identified for disposal, the Board of Education must determine the share of the property sale proceeds to be allocated to the Board and the Province based on its historical records of the capital fund sharing arrangement between the Province and the Board for site acquisition and any improvements.
- **Allocation of Proceeds:** The proceeds from the disposition of a capital asset may be allocated in the proportion of 25 percent to the local Board of Education and 75 percent to the Minister where contributions to the original capital expenditure cannot be determined or where the original capital expenditure by the Board of Education is known to be equal to or less than 25 percent. Notwithstanding this default allocation, the Minister may determine the allocation of the generated funds from a sale in any circumstance where the Board cannot determine the original contributions or where the allocation is determined to be inappropriate.
- **Use of Proceeds:** The funds generated by any sale and allocated to the School District must be used for new school capital projects with the Minister's approval.

- **Provincial Government Acquisition of Surplus Property:** On receipt of the inventory of surplus sites or assets, the Ministries of Education and Labour and Citizens' Services have 60 days within which to notify the Board of Education of the government's interest in negotiating for the purchase of the asset for use by government, Crown corporations or other government agencies such as colleges or health authorities. The Order effectively gives the Provincial government the "right-of-first refusal" for purchase of surplus school lands in order to provide the government with the "opportunity to match" provincial institutional needs to the listed surplus asset.
- **Local Government Consultation:** Where the surplus property or asset is not acquired for a Provincial use, the local Board is then permitted to consult with its local government to determine their interest in the use and acquisition of the asset for community purposes.
- **Private Sale:** Where there is neither a Provincial nor local government purchase of the asset, the Board then may proceed through a public process to make the property available for acquisition by other interested purchasers.
- **Market Value:** All negotiations for the disposal or exchange of surplus lands and assets are to be based on fair market value for the property.

To date, the Burnaby School District #41 has complied with the Ministerial Order through its adoption of a standard policy statement for the disposal of surplus real property and improvements which is consistent with the government's direction. The School District has advised staff that there have been no Burnaby School District owned lands or assets listed as being surplus to the District's needs at this time. One exception, listed by the School District, is the former Riverside School building which is currently leased by the District for the privately-operated Kenneth Gordon School. However, the lands associated with this site are owned by the City of Burnaby.

3.0 BURNABY LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Ministerial Order raises significant concerns for the City of Burnaby, its residents and other local governments as the Order's procedures and requirements fail to appropriately account for:

- local Official Community Plan and land use objectives for school lands; and
- the financial contributions made to purchase school lands and build schools by the local governments and resident taxpayers.

The following provides a discussion of these primary areas of concern with the Order by highlighting the experience and history of Burnaby.

3.1 Community Plan and Land Use Objectives

As currently structured, the Order raises the potential for conflict or disagreement amongst a City and School Board and the Provincial Government, as the Order does not reference or provide direction for local school boards to consult or obtain input from the local government regarding

To: City Manager
From: Director Planning & Building
Re: Burnaby School Lands

2009 January 06 Page 5

the appropriate future land use or zoning designation of assets identified for disposal. For example, school lands could be sold directly to the Provincial Government or agency for a government determined use that may be contrary to the community plan prepared by the local government, or incompatible with land uses adjacent to the school site.

Within Burnaby, the City and the School District have a century-old partnership which has created a public legacy for an integrated framework for school; park and open space sites intended to meet the long-term educational, community facility, and park and open space needs of Burnaby residents. As requested by Council staff have pursued the completion of a report outlining the historical context of both provincial legislation and the legal and administrative relationship of the City of Burnaby and School District #41. This background report titled: *The Contextual History of the Planning and Acquisition of Burnaby School Lands*, has been provided to Council under separate cover to supplement the information which has been provided in this report.¹ The documented contextual history demonstrates that the City has maintained strong and continuing legal, financial and administrative interests in the planning and creation of school sites within the context of the City's community plans, and direct involvement in decisions for any re-designation or exchange of school lands for other purposes. The salient points in the contextual document have been incorporated into this report.

Currently, Burnaby's school lands comprise 53 school sites, an administration office site and works yard encompassing approximately 434 acres (see *Attachments 1 & 2*). These Burnaby school lands form an integral part of the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) which defines school sites to serve existing and future residential neighbourhoods, incorporates school sites into the City's park and open space framework, and recognizes the importance of these sites and associated facilities for the provision of educational and other community services. The importance of school lands to the City's community and land use plans is evident in that school lands not only form part of the City's commitment to meet the long-term educational needs, but also provide for our neighbourhood park and open space needs. In addition, school facilities, such as playfield space, gyms and other shared recreation and community facilities are a key resource in meeting cultural, recreational and other social needs of the community. As such, these school and park resources are integral to Burnaby's planning direction in order to achieve a defined and acceptable standard of liveability for our citizens in every neighbourhood.

Given the importance of Burnaby school lands in meeting current and long-term educational and park and open space needs in the community, and the direct linkage of these sites to our residential development frameworks, the City and the School District have a well-established relationship which provides for the review and analysis of the need and role of school lands from a broader community perspective. As outlined in *The Contextual History of the Planning and Acquisition of Burnaby School Lands* this relationship has allowed the City and the School District to:

¹ The Contextual History of the Planning and Acquisition of Burnaby School Lands (City of Burnaby Planning Department, 2008) is available from the Burnaby Planning Department and on the City's website: www.city.burnaby.bc.ca

- plan, designate and acquire lands for school and community purposes;
- organize the growth of residential communities in relation to school and park sites;
- exchange lands between the City and School District to achieve school and community objectives; and
- accommodate the interim use of closed school sites pending any future need for school or other community purposes.

Throughout our history, the City and the School District have achieved a pro-active, community based and mutually beneficial approach to the management of school lands in line with both educational and community objectives. This cooperative and integrated approach generally includes the completion of land use decisions that are realized through discussions and agreement between the City and the School District. These land use decisions are pursued with the concurrence of Council and the School Board in conjunction with any required community consultation and input. This process has ensured that careful consideration is given to all aspects of community and school site planning in Burnaby.

While the City of Burnaby's close and mutually beneficial relationship with its School District has served to protect Burnaby's broader community interests, the Ministerial Order does present a significant concern in terms of its potential to adversely impact Burnaby, and other B.C. municipalities, as the order's implementation could:

- erode established mutually supportive relationships between local governments and School Districts;
- adversely affect established community plans;
- reduce the land base provision for park, open space, community facilities, and future school sites; and
- introduce incompatible lands uses within established neighbourhoods and community plans.

In large part, this is due to the Order's approach which provides for the disposal of school lands and gives the Provincial Government the "first right of refusal" for surplus properties without any provision for consultation with and agreement of the local government and its residents. As it is currently structured, the Order also does not acknowledge or account for the authority and role of local governments to plan and approve changes in land use and zoning, nor for consideration of the long-term needs of community plans for school lands.

In respect to these primary concerns, in order to protect the interests of Burnaby and other local governments, staff would recommend that the Provincial Government be requested to amend the order to:

- *require consultation with and agreement of the local government for school lands and facilities to be listed as surplus to school and community needs;*
- *make all surplus lands and facilities available for purchase by the local government prior to making the properties available for Provincial uses; and*

- seek local government agreement to proposed future uses of surplus school lands prior to the sale, disposal or transfer of the school lands to the Province or other private parties.

3.2 Financial Contributions by Local Government and Resident Taxpayers

As noted, the Ministerial Order also fails to acknowledge or appropriately account for the historical financial contribution made to school assets by local governments, the City and resident taxpayers. Specifically, the Order does not contain a mechanism for local governments or communities to document their financial interests in school lands and facilities prior to their disposition; to ensure that the proceeds attributable to local taxpayers are either vested directly in new local school lands and facilities, as originally intended; or to ensure that lands contributed to School Districts "in trust" for school purposes by local government are maintained for school purposes or returned to the local government, as appropriate.

The City of Burnaby and local taxpayers have played a substantial role in providing for direct financial contributions toward the acquisition and development of School District land and facility assets. However, as it is currently structured, the Ministerial Order establishes a 'default' allocation for revenues received from the sale of surplus lands of 25% for the local School District, and 75% to the Province. This allocation of revenues may vary where the School District is able to document greater School District investment in the property being disposed, or at the discretion of the Minister. This default allocation appears to have been established without any regard to, or due consideration of, the historic contributions of local governments and resident taxpayers to school lands and facilities.

As structured, the Order may result in the loss of local government and resident taxpayer contributions to the school asset being made available for disposal. Specifically, the order does not require a School District to consult with local government to determine and report on a local community's historic 'financial contributions' towards the creation of the asset being made available for disposal. Particularly for Burnaby, local municipal financial and land contributions have substantially contributed to the land base and assets currently held by Burnaby School District #41.

Key examples of local government financial contributions, identified in the *The Contextual History of the Planning and Acquisition of Burnaby School Lands*, which were made to local school assets in Burnaby include:

- *Burnaby School Loan Bylaws*: Between 1906 and 1950, funds for the purchase of school sites and the construction of schools, in the order of \$2.09 million at that time, was raised through local taxation.
- *Burnaby Tax Sale Monies Bylaws*: Between 1948 and 1953, City revenues from Tax Sales of property were used to purchase land and construct schools and substantially supplement taxpayer funded School Loan Bylaws. Funds expended utilizing this B.C. Statute provision were in the order of \$590,000.

- *School Loan Bylaw Referendums:* In 1952, after a survey of educational needs, the Burnaby School Board worked in concert with the municipality and approved a long-range construction plan for Burnaby Schools. This work was completed in response to the need for extraordinary capital funding to support the acquisition of many new sites and the construction and expansion of schools in the post-war period. Initially, Burnaby sent a \$4.4 million dollar ‘Money bylaw’ to referendum under the existing statutes for Municipal School Loan Bylaws, which was authorized by the electorate. Five additional “School Loan Bylaw Referendums” allowed the School District to borrow funds for school land acquisitions and construction. These debentures were repaid overtime through funds raised through local taxation and by 50% Provincial grant amounts. The total Burnaby taxpayer contribution was in the order of \$28 million dollars.
- *Municipal School Land Reserves:* From the 1940s until the 1970s, the City and the School District jointly established a planning basis for reserving of municipal lands for future school purposes. This cooperative approach resulted in mixed ownership and investment in Burnaby School Lands.
- *Burnaby Land Consolidation / Exchanges:* Over its history, in the acquisition of school sites, a variety of cost-sharing and land transfers were approved between the City and School District. Every property acquisition was unique in its percentage of contribution between the Provincial Government grant, the City and School Board. Many of the sites incorporated municipal tax-sale and park properties, and road and lane allowances that had been reserved for school purposes.
- *Combined School/Park sites:* Burnaby Council adopted influential planning reports in 1961 that created comprehensive community planning standards and locations for both park and school sites. It was deemed desirable from a community planning perspective to plan to combine, where feasible and practical, both neighbourhood and district park and school sites. As a result lands were acquired jointly by both the City and School District to serve the community's needs. These sites are integral to the City's neighbourhood and district park plans and in many cases it would not be possible to separate the dual community uses either legally or spatially. In a number of circumstances school buildings and facilities are located on City-owned lands and city-operated park facilities are located on School District lands.
- *Burnaby Lands Transferred in Trust:* As part of this history, Burnaby regularly transferred to the School District municipal lands acquired by Tax Sale for school purposes. The governing B.C. Statutes at the time outlined that such lands could be conveyed to the Board of School Trustees “in trust for school purposes.” In 1958, provincial legislation was amended to require that development by a School Board of a new building shall only commence on sites held by and vested in the ownership of the Board of Trustees. As a result, any municipally-owned school site, held in title by the Corporation of the District of Burnaby, which was required for new school construction, was transferred by bylaw and/or sold to the School District, often in consideration of \$1.00. Under Provincial Statutes, at the time, municipalities had the authority by bylaw: “For conveying, with the consent of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to the Board of School Trustees..., in trust for school purposes and as school sites, any land held or acquired by the municipality for school

purposes.” Therefore, at the time of these various land transfers, Burnaby Council and its citizens were reasonably assured that that all municipal lands that were required to be transferred to the School District were vested in the ownership of the community for school purposes. Should the use of the lands transferred in trust cease to be required for school purposes by the School District, the City would expect that these lands would be managed to protect and provide for future local educational and community needs.

- *Burnaby School Site Acquisition Charge:* This new funding initiative was implemented in 2002 to assist with the capital cost of securing new school site and facilities. The acquisition charge represents a tax on local development, which to date, has raised over \$6,000,000 for school land purchases.
- *Ongoing Acquisitions:* The City also continues to pursue property acquisitions and other land exchanges to assist in the protection and development of potential future school sites. A number of future school sites remain in the City’s ownership, with the City continuing to pursue additional acquisitions in line with adopted community plans.

In summary, the complex history of Burnaby’s school lands and their creation through investment, taxation, property transfers and acquisition, by the City and School Board, has resulted in a legacy of overlapping financial, legal and civic interests in the existing 55 sites administered by the Board of Education in the City. It should be noted that the historical contributions may appear small, in contrast with modern monetary values, but these expenditures account for a significant number of the modern-day assets acquired through bylaw funds to finance Burnaby’s school lands and buildings.

In response to Council’s original request a comprehensive property inventory, with corresponding preliminary land title document and municipal bylaw research, of all Burnaby school lands was completed by Planning Department staff. *Attachment 1* provides a summary of the outcome of this site specific research that identifies some of the legal and financial interests held by the City in these school land assets.

This land inventory and preliminary documentary research clearly demonstrates the significant local contributions made by Burnaby and resident taxpayers to the creation of its school lands. It should be noted, that following the completion of the recommended detailed archival and document research for each land parcel, the findings of the legal status of each school site may be subject to change. The Ministerial Order, however, as structured, does not account for or appropriately protect local government and resident taxpayer investments in school lands. The overall approach generally excludes consideration of local government financial interests and contributions by:

- not defining an approach to account for local government equity in lands being considered for disposal;
- not establishing a process for involvement or notification of local government in determining historic financial contributions or legal interests in these lands; and

- by providing the Minister with the discretion to arbitrarily allocate the generated funds from a sale in any circumstance where the Board cannot determine the original contributions or where the allocation is determined to be inappropriate.

To address these primary concerns regarding the legal and financial interests of local governments in school lands and assets, staff would recommend that the Provincial Government be requested to amend the Ministry of Education's Order to:

- *require consultation with the local government to determine and document local government and community contributions made towards the creation of school land and facility assets considered for disposal;*
- *ensure that proceeds from land disposals attributable to local taxpayers are either vested directly in new local school lands and facilities, as originally intended, or returned to the local government;*
- *recognize lands contributed to School Districts in trust for school purposes by local government, and maintain those lands for school purposes or return the lands to the local government; and*
- *remove the discretion for the Minister to allocate funds generated from the sale of school assets to the Provincial Government.*

4.0 ACTIONS TO PROTECT BURNABY'S INTEREST IN SCHOOL LANDS

Given the potential implications of the Ministerial Order, as outlined in Section 3.0, staff recommend that a number of actions be implemented, in cooperation with the Burnaby School District, to protect the community's interests in all of Burnaby's school lands, as outlined below:

- ***Appropriate Zoning for School Lands***

The inventory has identified several school properties that retain, in part, the prevailing residential zoning of the property in place at the time of its acquisition or designation for school purposes. To properly reflect the community's designated use of these sites, it is proposed that all school lands, with inconsistent zoning, be rezoned to the P3 Park and Public Use District, consistent with the property's current OCP designation and school use.

With Council adoption of the recommendations of this report, the Planning Department, in cooperation with the School District, would propose to initiate the City rezoning of defined School District and City-owned lands currently used for school purposes to the appropriate Park and Public Use District (P3) designation. Further reports would be prepared for Council consideration on individual site rezonings as part of the City's regular rezoning process.

- ***Establishment of Lease Agreements for City Lands Used for School Purposes***

The inventory identified several City-owned properties that are used for School purposes. In a number of cases, these City-owned lands accommodate constructed school buildings and facilities. In order to refine the current unclear legal situation concerning these properties, the establishment of defined lease agreements for the City land involved is recommended.

To: City Manager
From: Director Planning & Building
Re: Burnaby School Lands

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Staff would propose to review these lands with the School District in order to establish appropriate lease agreements to reflect and protect the City's interest in lands used for school purposes.

Staff would proposed to complete the review and discussions with the School District as to ongoing needs for use of these City lands for school purposes, and would prepare a subsequent report to Council on the appropriate and recommended lease arrangements.

- ***Recognition of City Financial Contributions to School Lands and Facilities***

As outlined above, and in the referenced *The Contextual History of the Planning and Acquisition of Burnaby School Lands*, over its history, the City has made a considerable investment in school lands and facilities through a number of mechanisms including property transfers in trust, transfer of tax-sale lands, and expenditure of City taxpayer funds.

To protect and provide for legal recognition of the City's interests, staff would propose to undertake the further research to document City contributions within the school lands inventory. This inventory would include full historic land title and bylaw research in order to determine the historic transfer of City properties to the School District. This research will also determine whether or not any of the City's legal interests in the lands could be further protected through legal covenants or other means. On completion of this further research, staff would prepare the required report to seek Council's concurrence for any arising actions.

- ***Registration of Existing Park Dedication and Reservation Bylaws***

The inventory identified five school sites, in whole or part, which were protected by Park Dedication and Reservation Bylaws prior to being conveyed to the ownership of the School District for school purposes by the City. Generally, these bylaws establish legal restrictions on the subject properties that would require local government approval and/or public referendum to allow for their disposition from public ownership or for its conversion to any other purpose.

To ensure that information on Park Dedication Bylaws is appropriately referenced, staff would propose to add this information from the inventory to the City property databases, and to explore the feasibility of registering the City's bylaw references on title through the Land Titles Office.

With Council adoption of the recommendations of this report, staff would pursue these and other measures, as appropriate, to further protect the City's financial and community plan interests in the City's school lands. Further reports on specific actions would be prepared for Council consideration as appropriate. In addition, staff would consult with and involve the Burnaby School District as further research, initiatives and specific actions are pursued.

5.0 UBCM RESOLUTION

In 2007, the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) at its annual convention endorsed a resolution regarding the Ministerial Order. This resolution specifically advocated that the UBCM request the Province of BC to reconsider its position with respect to the disposal of school land or improvements at fair market value as it relates to such acquisition by a local government body. The intention was to allow communities to assume responsibility for surplus school properties at minimal or no cost for use as seniors' facilities, low cost housing or other community purposes.

The government response to the resolution was to repeat the intentions of the Ministry of Education directive. Additionally, the Provincial Government responded that:

“the Ministry of Labour and Citizens’ Services, Accommodations and Real Estate Services (ARES) will act as the central agent for the disposal of land and improvements. Boards of Education own significant capital assets and, as a result of declining enrolment and changing demographics a number of these assets have become surplus. The government is interested in putting these surplus properties to highest and best use for maximum public benefit. Under the new process, properties identified as surplus by the school district will be matched against capital requirements from the provincial government, including Crown corporations or other agencies such as colleges or health authorities. Should there be no required use for the property at the provincial level, then the school district will consult with the local government where the property resides, to see if there is a community use for the property. The proceeds from the sale of surplus properties are used by school districts to fund capital investments in educational facilities. Sale of surplus assets will continue to be at fair market value, and the distribution of the proceeds from the sale will not change from current practice.”

At the time of the adoption of the UBCM resolution, there had not been a critical review of the implication of the Ministerial Order for all local governments of B.C. As outlined in this report, the Ministerial Order has ignored the historic local government financial interests; community planning and land-use considerations; the need for a consultation process with local governments; and the potential for broad and significant impacts to communities across British Columbia arising from the disposal of school lands.

As such, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to draft a resolution for consideration at the 2009 UBCM convention that would reflect the findings and outcomes presented in this report. Staff would submit the resolution to Council for consideration in advance of the UBCM resolution submission deadline of June 30, 2009.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The City of Burnaby, in partnership with School District #41, has effectively managed the school lands and community assets, in trust for Burnaby’s children and citizens, as an integral part of its community plans and services. The shared responsibility of both the City and School District to

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protect and use the building and land assets for the benefit of the community has long been acknowledged. Burnaby schools and sites form a critical part of Burnaby's social infrastructure that provide a substantial contribution to the well-being of every neighbourhood and citizen. The planning and stewardship of the historic legacy of our school sites to meet the needs of future generations has remained as a constant principle for the City and School District to guide the management of these public land assets.

There are several specific requirements of the new Provincial Government's Ministerial Order that raise concerns for the City of Burnaby with respect to the City's legal title interests, historic financial contributions, and the protection of school lands for community purposes. As such it is recommended that Council, through the Office of the Mayor, write to the Province through the Minister of Education to request amendment of the Ministerial Order regarding the disposition of school lands and assets, as outlined in this report. In light of the implications of the Order, with Council adoption of the recommendations of this report, staff will also proceed to ensure that all steps are taken to protect the financial and legal interests of the City in existing school lands with the appropriate School District consultation and approval of Council, as necessary. Further, staff would prepare a resolution to the UBCM for Council's consideration to seek support from other affected local governments for its concerns regarding the Ministerial Order's potential impacts.

It is further recommended that copies of this report be sent to the Burnaby Board of Education, School District #41; the LANDS Group (Attn: Jessica Van der Veen, 2465 Hamiota Street, Victoria, BC V8R 2N1); Burnaby MLA's; The Minister responsible for Labour and Citizens Services (ARES); The Minister of Education; and All Members of the Union of B.C. Municipalities.



B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

JW/LP/sa/tn
Attachments (2)

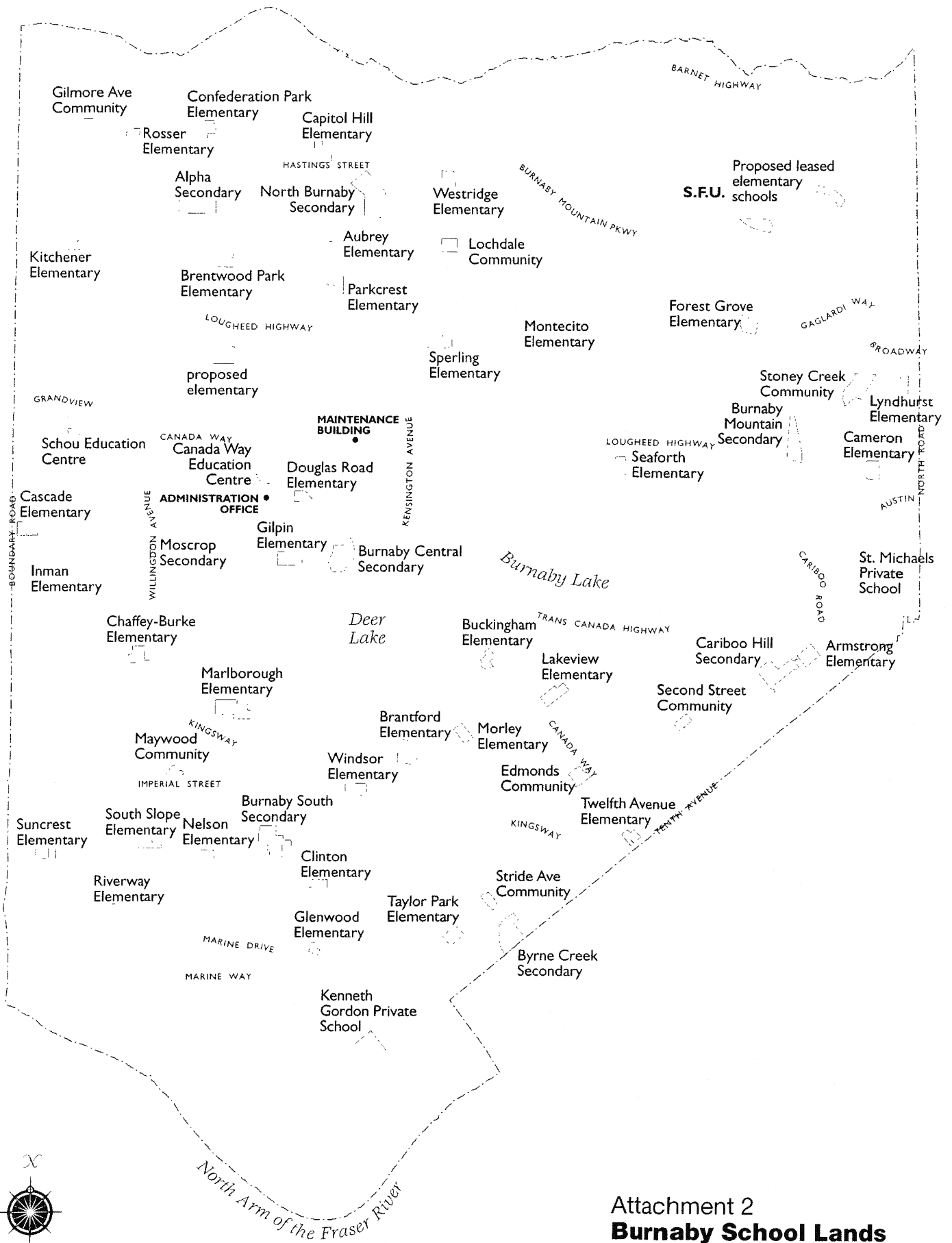
cc: Deputy City Manager
Director Finance
City Solicitor
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Director Engineering
City Clerk
Superintendent of Schools – School District #41

Burnaby School Lands: Preliminary Inventory of City Financial and Legal Interests

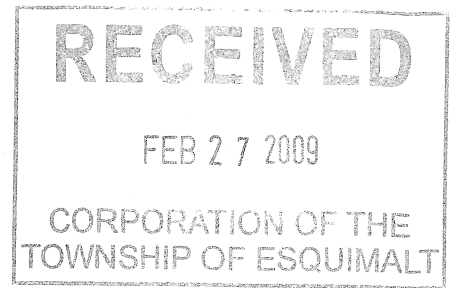
Property Name	Site owned in whole or part by City.	Site conveyed by City for nominal fee.	Site acquired by City Tax Sale Bylaw.	Site protected by Park Dedication or Reservation Bylaw.	Site includes City road and/or lane rights-of-way	Summary Sites with City Interests
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS						
Armstrong Elementary						
Aubrey Elementary						
Brantford Elementary						
Brentwood Park Elementary						
Buckingham Elementary						
Cameron Elementary						
Capitol Hill Elementary						
Cascade Heights Elementary						
Chaffey-Burke Elementary						
Clinton Elementary						
Confederation Park Elementary						
Douglas Road Elementary						
Edmonds Community School						
Forest Grove Elementary						
Gilmore Avenue Community School						
Gilpin Elementary						
Glenwood Elementary						
Inman Elementary						
Kitchener Elementary						
Lakeview Elementary						
Lochdale Community School						
Lyndhurst Elementary						
Marlborough Elementary						
Maywood Community School						
Montecito Elementary						
Morley Street Elementary						
Nelson Elementary						
Parkcrest Elementary						
Rosser Elementary						
Seaforth Elementary						
Second Street Community School						
South Slope Elementary						
Sperling Avenue Elementary						
Stoney Creek Community School						
Stride Community School						
Suncrest Elementary						
Taylor Park Elementary						
Twelfth Avenue Elementary						
Westridge Elementary						
Windsor Elementary						
SECONDARY SCHOOLS						
Alpha Secondary						
Burnaby Central Secondary						
Burnaby Mountain Secondary						
Burnaby North Secondary						
Burnaby South Secondary						
Byrne Creek Secondary						
Cariboo Hill Secondary						
Moscrop Secondary						
OTHER SCHOOL PROPERTIES						
Schou Education Centre						
Canada Way Education Centre						
St. Michaels Private School						
Kenneth Gordon Private School						
Duthie-Union Elementary						
Riverway West Elementary						
ADMINISTRATIVE PROPERTIES						
School Board Administration Office						
School Board Maintenance Building						

Note: This inventory reflects preliminary research and findings and may be subject to change.

BURRARD INLET



Attachment 2
Burnaby School Lands



FEB 25 2009

Ref: 77732

- Agenda

Her Worship Mayor Barb Desjardins
Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Councillors:

As you may be aware, on January 19, 2009 Premier Gordon Campbell announced the formation of the new Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development (STED). As the new Minister responsible for STED, I am writing to personally seek your support in implementing BizPaL, one of the ministry's key programs, in your community.

BizPaL is an online tool that allows citizens to generate a personalized list of permits and licences required from all three levels of government – local, provincial, and federal – to start up a business in a specific community. BizPaL can also help verify that small business owners have the correct permits and licences in place for their business.

BizPaL is simple and straightforward, reducing the time spent by citizens searching for permits and licences from a full day to about 15 minutes, with the broader benefits of BizPaL being cost effectiveness and increased compliance. The tool is quick and easy to implement, and there is no cost for you or your clients to participate. The program can be implemented in your municipality in a very short time.

BizPaL has received numerous awards across Canada, most notably the 2008 British Columbia Premier's Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Partnership category, recognizing creative, and effective joint or multi-party initiatives. BizPaL has also received strong support from the small business community, including the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and local Chambers of Commerce.

During these uncertain economic times, BizPaL is a large part of the solution for the municipalities of BC. Our government understands the need to break down barriers, and make it easy for entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses.

.../2

Ministry of
Small Business,
Technology and
Economic Development
and Minister Responsible
for the Asia-Pacific Initiative

Office of the
Minister



Mailing Address:
PO Box 9046 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Telephone: 250 356-7411
Facsimile: 250 356-6376

Location:
Room 323
Parliament Buildings, Victoria
website: www.gov.bc.ca/sted

By March 31, 2009, 75 municipalities in BC will be participating in the BizPaL initiative. I would encourage you to show continued support for small business in becoming among the next to participate in this initiative, to help streamline and simplify business start-ups in your community. For more information on BizPaL please contact Lara Delo, A/Senior Policy Analyst, Small Business Branch, at 250-952-0134, or email at Lara.Delo@gov.bc.ca . To view the BizPaL tool please go to www.bcbizpal.ca, or visit one of our local partner sites at www.kamloops.ca/bizpal .

I appreciate your continued support of enhancing BC's economic future through a dynamic small business sector. Our collaborative efforts to streamline processes for small business will provide entrepreneurs more time to devote to what is most important: running and building their businesses.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact my office directly at 250 356-7411, or by email at STED.Minister@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister

cc: Honourable Kevin Krueger
Minister of Community Development

Mr. Darryl Soper
Director, Small Business Programs
Ministry of Small Business, Technology
and Economic Development



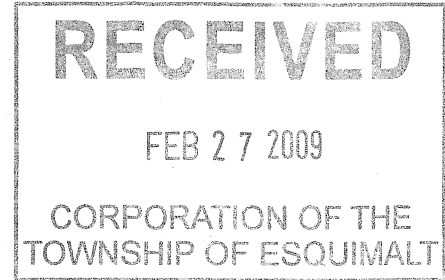
GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.gvpl.ca

February 26, 2009

Her Worship Mayor Barb Desjardins
Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, BC V9A 3P1

Agenda
Barb



Dear Mayor Desjardins and Council:

Re: Library Final Five Year Financial Plan (2009-2013) and 2009 Operating Budget

The Greater Victoria Public Library is pleased to submit its Final Five Year Financial Plan for 2009 to 2013. Year one of the plan represents our submission of our 2009 Final Operating Budget for your approval. We also enclose a summary of contributions and rental adjustment for each municipality.

Your 2009 net contribution requested is \$662,842, representing an 8.57% increase before rental adjustment.

The budget calls for an overall increase in municipal contributions of 6.6%, decreased from the 6.8% increase reflected in our Provisional Five Year Financial Plan provided in October. We are conscious of the economic downturn and will continue to strive for economies in our operations. In 2009, we will be performing an operational review to ensure that the Library is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The largest increase in expenses in 2009 is 6.36% for labour costs associated with the new collective agreement. As the notes to the Five Year Financial Plan indicate, after offsetting contingency reserve balances resulting from surpluses arising during labour disruption, the increase in core expenditures in 2009 is 3.75%. The majority of the additional increase is related to the new Goudy Branch in Langford which opened last fall.

Another change of note from the provisional plan is the expansion of services under Strategic Initiatives. The provisional plan included facility expansions and new branches which municipalities had requested GVPL plan for within the five-year period. The final plan has condensed such increases into "Facilities Renewal" with estimated amounts that may eventually be higher or lower, without identifying specific projects. Details of such plans will be determined through the facilities master plan currently being developed, which will set the priorities for facilities as agreed to by all municipal partners.

The demand for public library services has generally been increasing as the economy declines. Our library system can attest to this trend as we are currently experiencing unprecedented usage with monthly circulation since September 2008 increasing 20% over the prior year.

Page 1/2...

CENTRAL LIBRARY 735 Broughton Street, Victoria, BC V8W 3H2 • 250-382-7241 Fax 250-382-7125

BRUCE HUTCHISON BRANCH • CENTRAL SAANICH BRANCH • EMILY CARR BRANCH • ESQUIMALT BRANCH • GOUDY BRANCH • JUAN DE FUCA BRANCH • NELLIE MCCLUNG BRANCH • OAK BAY BRANCH • SAANICH CENTENNIAL BRANCH

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE 735 Broughton Street, Victoria, BC V8W 3H2 • 250-384-5222 Fax 250-385-5971

Barry Holmes, Chief Executive Officer

We wish to acknowledge and thank our ten municipal partners for their ongoing collaboration and support of our services. We look forward to receiving your approval and welcome comments and feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Gerrard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Gerrard" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Gerrard
Board Chair, Greater Victoria Public Library

cc Laurie Hurst, Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt, Director of Financial Services
Tom Day, Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt, Chief Administrative Officer
Barry Holmes, GVPL, Chief Executive Officer
Donna Locke, GVPL, Finance Manager



GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

	2009 ¹	2010	2011	2012	2013
Core Budget					
REVENUES AND TRANSFERS					
Municipal contributions	\$11,983,594	\$12,758,542	\$13,510,654	\$14,291,215	\$15,115,323
Provincial operating grants	622,500	628,725	635,012	641,362	647,776
Other grants	245,218	248,898	251,898	252,697	255,291
Fines	798,800	822,764	847,447	872,870	899,056
Other fees, rentals and contracts	167,310	168,983	170,673	172,380	174,103
Investment income	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
Donations	80,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Transfer from contingency reserve	560,000	98,975	0	0	0
Transfer from replacement reserve	175,500	110,000	112,000	117,500	163,000
	\$14,724,922	\$14,933,887	\$15,624,684	\$16,445,025	\$17,351,549
EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS					
Salaries & benefits	\$10,207,301	\$10,637,258	\$11,184,436	\$11,522,360	\$11,752,941
Library Materials	1,952,594	1,952,594	1,991,646	2,031,479	2,072,108
Supplies and services	471,012	471,012	480,432	490,041	499,842
Building occupancy expenses	721,637	729,884	744,481	759,371	774,558
Other expenses	598,626	496,990	506,930	517,068	527,410
Investment in capital assets	215,500	215,500	219,810	224,206	228,690
Capital lease payments	182,504	148,400	143,000	143,000	143,000
Replacement reserve plan expenditures	175,500	110,000	112,000	117,500	143,000
Transfer to replacement reserve	95,000	95,000	120,000	120,000	140,000
Transfer to contingency reserve	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
	\$14,629,675	\$14,856,638	\$15,512,735	\$15,935,025	\$16,291,549
% Increase in Municipal Contributions - Core³	5.8%	5.8%	5.0%	2.0%	-1.7%
Strategic Initiatives⁴					
EXPANSION OF SERVICES					
Facilities Renewal ⁵	\$0	\$0	\$0	510,000	1,060,000
OTHER					
New Facilities Coordinator Position ⁶			81,949		
New HR Support position		77,249			
Feasibility study (one-time) ⁷			30,000		
Library Facilities Master Plan (one-time) ⁸	45,247				
Operational Review (one-time) ⁹	50,000				
	\$95,247	\$77,249	\$111,949	\$0	\$0
Total Strategic Initiatives	\$95,247	\$77,249	\$111,949	\$510,000	\$1,060,000
Total Expenditures	\$14,724,922	\$14,933,887	\$15,624,684	\$16,445,025	\$17,351,549
% increase in Municipal Contributions - Total²	6.6%	6.5%	5.9%	5.8%	5.8%

Assumptions

- a. Provincial grants and revenues from rentals, copying and other fees and contracts are forecast to increase at 1% annually.
- b. Fine revenue is forecast to increase by 3% annually.
- c. Salaries and benefits are forecast based on the CUPE 410 settlement in effect to 2010, with a final pay equity increase forecast for 2011 and a general wage increase based on projected rate of inflation extended to 2013 for planning purposes.
- d. Building occupancy expenditures are forecast with a 1% increase in 2010, and a 2% increase thereafter.
- e. All other expenditures, not including transfers, are forecast with a 0% increase in 2010 and a 2% increase thereafter, other than capital leases and expenses rolled into core from strategic initiatives.

GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Notes to the Five-Year Financial Plan (2009-2013)

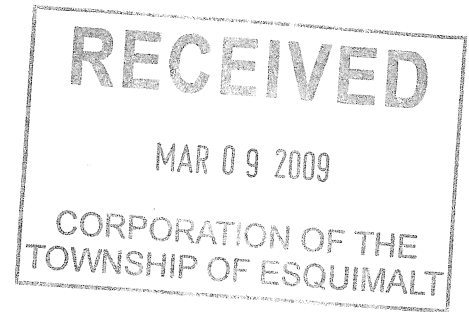
1. The 2009 column represents the final operating budget submission for approval by municipalities.
2. The union settlement resulted in salary and benefit increases in 2009 of \$714,493. Subsequent years reflect additional increases, as negotiated by GVLRA and CUPE 410. The 2009 increase in Municipal Contributions breaks out as follows:

Union contract settlement	6.36%
Less funding from contingency reserve	<u>(4.15%)</u>
Net increase	2.21%
Other core increases	1.54%
Strategic initiatives 2009	0.84%
Goudy Branch	<u>2.03%</u>
Total Increase	6.62%

3. As in previous plans, the target or budget guideline for core expenditure increases is one that does not exceed the rate of inflation combined with the rate of increase in population of the member municipalities. During the years in this plan with wage increases due to the union contract settlement (2009-2011), contingency reserve balances resulting from surpluses arising during labour disruption are included in planned revenue to offset and lower overall municipal contribution increases.
4. Strategic initiatives are in addition to core expenditures and include only new, incremental costs which haven't already been approved; one-time costs are noted as such.
5. The provisional plan included facility expansions and new branches which municipalities had requested GVPL plan for within the five year period. The final plan has condensed such increases into "Facilities Renewal" with estimated amounts that may eventually be higher or lower, without identifying specific projects. Details of such plans will be determined through the facilities master plan currently being developed, which will set the priorities for expansion as agreed by all member municipalities.
6. The Facilities Coordinator position is proposed to coordinate maintenance and improvement of all branches, to oversee all facilities contracts and services, including janitorial, security and shuttle services, and to ensure that facilities are safe for the public and employees. GVPL currently does not have a facilities-related employee position and the library has grown to a level in which this position is necessary. This cost was previously included in 2009, but has been deferred to 2011 due to other funding priorities.
7. The feasibility study is included in 2011 to assess GVPL's fundraising and development potential with the goal of establishing alternative sources of funding. Such a strategic direction will be contingent on articulating an organizational vision, such as that to be developed through a Facilities Master Plan (Note 6).
8. The 2009 provisional budget includes \$45,247 under strategic initiatives for continued costs of consulting services for the development of a Facilities Master Plan. This initiative was approved and partially paid for in 2008. The funds included in 2009 are for the additional, net cost after funding received in the form of two bequests in the amount of \$75,000.
9. The 2009 provisional budget includes \$50,000 under strategic initiatives in support of managers in the performance of an operational review. These funds replace 2008 funding for a core review, which was diverted to HR consulting costs as a result of the labour dispute.
10. The provisional plan included a strategic initiative to increase branch hours of operation. This initiative is contingent on further analysis of hourly use and service models. The initiative is not included in the final plan, as it is assumed that resources will be reallocated internally to support this change with no increase in funding required.

Municipal Contributions and Rental Adjustment

REVENUE	2008 Share	2008 Budget	2009 Share	2009 Final Budget	Increase %	Rent Adjustment	2009 Net Contribution
MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTIONS:							
Central Saanich	5.53%	\$621,559	5.44%	\$651,907	4.88%	\$11,797	\$663,704
Colwood	4.73%	531,641	4.91%	588,394	10.68%	8,534	596,928
Esquimalt	5.45%	612,567	5.55%	665,089	8.57%	-2,247	662,842
Highlands	0.66%	74,182	0.70%	83,885	13.08%	1,218	85,103
Langford	7.91%	889,065	8.48%	1,016,209	14.30%	14,782	1,030,991
Metchosin	1.68%	188,828	1.69%	202,523	7.25%	2,926	205,449
Oak Bay	7.10%	798,023	6.80%	814,884	2.11%	-2,596	812,288
Saanich	35.18%	3,954,147	34.70%	4,158,307	5.16%	-43,394	4,114,913
Victoria	28.97%	3,256,158	28.86%	3,458,465	6.21%	2,756	3,461,221
View Royal	2.79%	313,589	2.87%	343,929	9.68%	6,224	350,153
Total Municipal Contributions	100%	\$11,239,759	100%	\$11,983,594	6.62%	\$0	\$11,983,594



March 5, 2009

Mayor and Council
Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Rd.
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Agenda
Karrie

Dear Mayor and Council:

On October 30, 2009, the eyes of the world will be on Greater Victoria, as the Olympic Torch is lit for the first time on Canadian soil, and begins its 100-day journey across Canada in advance of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The flame, lit by the rays of the sun in Olympia, will travel directly from Athens, Greece to Victoria, British Columbia.

The Inner Harbour will be filled with excitement and energy to greet the arrival of the flame, which will then wind its way through the Capital Region in the first leg of the national relay, before making its return to the Legislature that evening for a large scale, world class celebration for the entire region to enjoy and remember. First-class music, dance, large scale spectacle and finale fireworks are all part of the exciting plans being developed for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our region.

The start of the torch relay is one of the most important elements of the games, and is expected to attract the attention of the world-wide media, as well as draw thousands of visitors to our region. The regional economic spin-off for our local suppliers, media, tourism, retail and arts sector is expected to be in the millions.

The Greater Victoria Spirit Committee has formed an Olympic Torch Relay Task Force, headed up by community leaders in arts, sport, business and community relations. This task force will undertake the organization of the Community Celebration and details pertaining to the torch relay, in cooperation with VANOC and its partners.

The involvement and support of the entire region is an essential component of the success of this effort. Recently, Victoria city council demonstrated its support of the Olympic Torch Community Celebration with a grant of \$150,000 plus city services. As the torch will run throughout the region over its 22 hour stay in the Capital Region, the Spirit Committee is seeking the support of the entire region to share in the ownership of this celebration. Together we will have much to celebrate after that first, memorable day.

We are writing to request that Esquimalt show its support for the Community Celebration, with a grant of \$20,000 towards the cost of this large-scale community event. The overall budget for the relay activities in our region is \$527,000 (cash and in-kind), with \$276,000 dedicated directly to the creation of this celebration.

Background materials and a detailed budget are provided for your information. Please feel free to contact us if you require additional information or details. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to the opportunity for everyone to share in the warmth of the Olympic flame and celebrate this exciting opportunity together.

Respectfully,

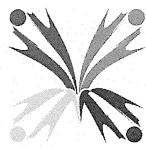
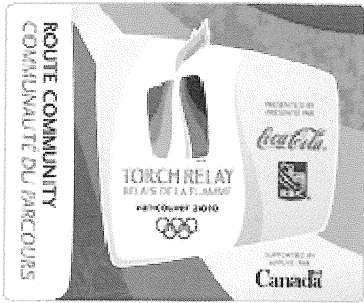
Alan Lowe
Greater Victoria Spirit Committee Co-chair

Hugh MacDonald
Greater Victoria Spirit Committee Co-chair

**Greater Victoria Spirit Committee
Olympic Torch Relay Budget DRAFT**

	Cash	In Kind	Total
REVENUE			
City of Victoria	150,000	74,000	224,000
Regional Municipalities	80,000		80,000
Federal Government	20,000		20,000
Provincial Government	20,000		20,000
Other Partner	15,000		15,000
Other	15,000		15,000
Other	15,000	48,000	63,000
Sponsorship/Fundraising	50,000	40,000	90,000
Total Revenue	365,000	162,000	527,000
EXPENSES			
Inner Harbour Ceremony and Celebration			
Event Service staffing (contract)	90,000		90,000
Performers (for both events)	75,000	5,000	80,000
Event Supplies and Services (subcontracts)	35,000	5,000	40,000
Rehearsal Venue	1,000	1,000	2,000
Spectacle Costume and clothing expenses	8,000	2,000	10,000
Misc.	6,000		6,000
Multimedia (both events)	35,000	13,000	48,000
	250,000	26,000	276,000
City Services			
Festival Equipment		10,000	10,000
Street Cleaning/Sanitation		6,000	6,000
Policing and Additional Security	10,000	50,000	60,000
Banner Installations and removal		4,000	4,000
Street Closures		4,000	4,000
	10,000	74,000	84,000
Transportation/Travel/Accommodation			
Charter Busses, Shuttles	2,000		2,000
Planning travel	500		500
Accommodation	3,000	3,000	6,000
Other travel	500		500
	6,000	3,000	9,000
Administration			
Office Supplies	1,000	5,000	6,000
Phones, Equipment use, Venue		15,000	15,000
Volunteer Services, Supplies and Appreciation	5,000	5,000	10,000
Planning costs, courier, postage etc	1,000		1,000
Protocol, gifts	5,000		5,000
	12,000	25,000	37,000
Communications			
Signage (including street banners)	11,000	6,000	17,000
Advertising, print, radio, television	6,000	20,000	26,000
Services: Design, writing, videography, photography, etc.	5,000	5,000	10,000
Printing and copying	5,000		5,000
	27,000	31,000	58,000
Contingency			
	60,000	3,000	63,000
	60,000	3,000	63,000
Total Expenditures	365,000	162,000	527,000
Net	-	-	-

prepared by Alice Bacon March 3, 2009



Spirit of BC

Victoria

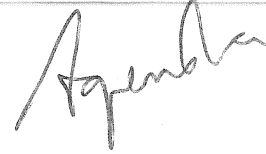
Olympic Torch Relay Organizing Committee

Responsibility	Name	Organization
Spirit Committee and Task Force Chair	Alan Lowe	Alan Lowe Architect, Inc. Former Victoria Mayor
Spirit Committee and Task Force Co-Chair	Hugh MacDonald	Executive Director SportHost Victoria
Fundraising Chair	Diane Lloyd	Director of Development Royal BC Museum
Media and Communications Co-chair	Kristine George	Director of Niche Marketing Tourism Victoria
Media and Communications Co-chair	Bill Eisenhauer	CEO Good Relations PR
Regional Route Coordinator	Sarah Mulhall	Regional Route Coordinator BC VANOC
Liaison to Route Coordinator Celebrations Coordinator	Alice Bacon	Spirit Coordinator City of Victoria
Liaisons and Protocol Co-Chair	Kelly Mann	President, CEO BC Games Society
Liaisons and Protocol Co-Chair	Roger Skillings	Executive Director Canadian Sport Centre Pacific
Volunteer Chair	Dave Calder	Olympic rower Senior Community Relations Advisor Ministry of Energy Mines & Resources
Torch Relay Sponsor	Shelley Eaves	Community Development Manager RBC
Torch Relay Sponsor	Deb Lineham	Regional Vice President RBC
Torch Relay Sponsor	Wayne Penny	Sales Centre Manager Coke
Concessions Chair	Frank Bourree	President, CEO Chemistry Consulting
City Special Events Liaison, Regional Recreation Liaison	Cindy O'Regan	Manager of Facilities and Operations
City Special Events Liaison	Jeff Day	Community Recreation Coordinator City of Victoria
Security Chair	Sgt. Tom Sawyer	VicPD
Fundraising and Events Advisor	Peter Kupiak	Volunteer, Sports Marketing Consultant

Deborah Liske

Subject: FW: MFA Credit Rating, 'AAA' affirmed by all three agencies
Attachments: Chair Frank Leonard Memo March 11.pdf; Moodys Press Release 2009.pdf; S&P Press Release 2009.pdf; Fitch Rating 2009.pdf

From: Allison Boyd [mailto:allison@mfa.bc.ca]
Sent: March 11, 2009 13:30
Subject: MFA Credit Rating, 'AAA' affirmed by all three agencies



TO: Municipal Mayor & Council
Regional District Chair & Directors

Today, we received a statement from **Standard & Poor's** that our **'AAA', outlook stable** is affirmed.

This follows on the recent announcements by both **Moody's and Fitch** of the triple A status for the MFA.

Please find attached a letter and press releases from our three agencies.

This is exceptionally good news during these challenging times.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Chair Frank Leonard
c/o District of Saanich: 250-475-5510

Robin Stringer, CAO
250-380-0432 ext: 222

Thank you,

Allison Boyd
Executive Assistant

p: 250.383.1181 x234
f: 250.384.3000



737 FORT STREET
VICTORIA, BC V8W 2V1
mfa.bc.ca

[2009 MFA Financial Forum & AGM, March 25 & 26 >>>](#)

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**MUNICIPAL
FINANCE
AUTHORITY** *of British Columbia*

mfa-bc

737 FORT STREET, VICTORIA, BC V8W 2V1 CANADA
TELEPHONE (250) 383-1181 FAX (250) 384-3000
E-MAIL mfa@mfa.bc.ca WEBSITE www.mfa.bc.ca

TO: Municipal Mayor & Council
Regional District Chair & Directors

From: Chair Frank Leonard
Robin Stringer, CAO

Re: MFA Credit Ratings – “Triple A”, “Triple Crown”

Date: March 11, 2009

We are very pleased to advise that all three of our credit rating agencies have affirmed our triple A status. Press releases are attached and credit reports will be posted on our website.

Today, Standard & Poor's issued their press release, affirming the 'AAA' credit with outlook "stable". Several factors were cited, including: "The Authority's credit strength comes from the financial strength of BC municipalities" and, "...a strong legal framework in which the Authority borrows on behalf of the members".

Moody's Investor Services and Fitch Ratings issued their reports on March 3, 2009.

Our ratings are the highest attainable and the confirmation contributes to investor confidence and in turn, our ability to raise capital in these very challenging financial markets.

On behalf of the MFA, we congratulate you on your sound fiscal policies that underscore our success.

Chair Frank Leonard
Municipal Finance Authority of BC
c/o District of Saanich: 250-475-5510

Robin Stringer, Chief Administrative Officer
Municipal Finance Authority of BC
250-380-0432 ext: 222



Announcement: Municipal Fin. Authority of British Columbia

Moody's Issues Annual Report on Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia

Toronto, March 09, 2009 -- In its annual report on the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFABC), Moody's Investors Service says that the Authority's Aaa rating reflects a strong institutional framework and substantial liquidity. Moody's also assigns a Prime-1 (P-1) rating to MFABC's commercial paper program.

"Significant bondholder security is provided by a strong institutional framework, which includes the joint and several liability of members of regional districts that borrow from MFABC as well as the unlimited taxing powers on all taxable properties in the province of British Columbia," says Moody's Senior Vice President David Rubinoff, lead analyst for MFABC and co-author of the report. Moreover, as in other Canadian provinces, the Province of British Columbia exercises a high degree of oversight over municipal financial activities, resulting in strong municipal financial performance and balance sheets.

MFABC's Aaa rating is also supported by substantial liquidity. The Authority's total cash and investments measured CAD 1.5 billion at December 31, 2008, equivalent to roughly 25% of total debt outstanding. The Municipal Finance Authority Act of British Columbia requires that MFABC's clients make contributions to a Debt Reserve Fund, which would provide liquidity in the event of non-payment by a participating municipality. In its history, MFABC has never had to rely on the Debt Reserve Fund as all clients have made required payments when due.

MFABC is a non-share capital corporation that was created in 1970 by the Canadian province of British Columbia. MFABC acts as the central borrowing agency for financing capital requirements of municipalities and regional districts, including hospital districts, in British Columbia.

Toronto
David Rubinoff
Senior Vice President
International Public Finance
Moody's Canada Inc.
(416) 214-1635

London
Yves Lemay
Managing Director
International Public Finance
Moody's Investors Service Ltd.
JOURNALISTS: 44 20 7772 5456
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March 11, 2009

Research Update:

**Municipal Finance Authority of
British Columbia 'AAA' Ratings
Affirmed On Strong Operating
Growth; Outlook Stable**

Primary Credit Analyst:

Stephen Ogilvie, Toronto (1) 416-507-2524; stephen_ogilvie@standardandpoors.com

Secondary Credit Analyst:

Paul Judson, CFA, Toronto (1) 416-507-2523; paul_judson@standardandpoors.com

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Research Update:

Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia 'AAA' Ratings Affirmed On Strong Operating Growth; Outlook Stable

Rationale

On March 11, 2009, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its ratings, including the 'AAA' long-term issuer credit and senior unsecured debt ratings, on the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFABC or the authority) based on a history of strong operating growth and financial strength of the British Columbia (B.C.) municipal sector, solid liquidity, and a strong legal framework. The outlook is stable.

In our opinion, the ratings on the MFABC reflect the following factors:

- The B.C. municipal sector's operating revenue growth continued to be strong in 2007. Aggregate operating revenues rose 7% in the year. The increase was in line with the long-term average of 7.3% for the 2002-2007 period. We expect operating revenue growth rates to be close to historical norms for 2008 and 2009. Growth in 2009 could be muted if municipal councils endeavor to cushion slowing local economies by levying lower tax increases.
- The authority's credit strength comes from the financial strength of B.C. municipalities. Overall, they have very strong liquidity levels, moderate debt burdens, strong long-term operating and after-capital financial results and benefit from stable support from the provincial government. In 2007, the aggregate operating surplus represented 23% of total operating revenues and the total after-capital results were balanced. We do not expect any major change in financial results for 2008 or 2009.
- Liquidity support is solid. The authority maintains an on-demand, nonrevocable bank facility of C\$300 million, and two C\$250 million bank lines backstopping its commercial paper program. In addition, the sinking and debt reserve funds are available for liquidity purposes in the event of market disruption. Those funds totaled C\$1.5 billion at the end of 2008.
- There is a strong legal framework in which MFABC borrows on behalf of members. The framework provides for mandatory debt service reserve contributions by obligors at the time of borrowing, the ability to establish sinking funds, and access to the local property tax base. The authority's statutory ability to access the property tax base for debt reserve fund replenishment creates a de facto joint and several liability among all municipal members.
- The Province of British Columbia (AAA/Stable/A-1+) has a history of supporting its municipal sector. It continues to provide a high level of financial support, particularly for smaller and more rural municipalities that have a lower level of own-source revenues compared with those of urban municipalities. Furthermore, although instances of municipal

financial distress are rare, the province has a record of timely assistance when needed.

We believe the following factors somewhat offset these credit strengths:

- Given MFABC's debt issuance intentions, continued strong operating revenue growth is important, although it could be a challenge in 2009. Operating revenue growth and operating surpluses underpin the municipalities and authority's capacity to repay principal and interest costs. Strong operating revenue growth will help to keep MFABC's debt burden at levels consistent with the 'AAA' ratings. Maintaining high levels of operating growth could be problematic if the economic slowdown puts a lingering chill into property development and local economic expansion.
- We expect debt to rise substantially from 2009 through to 2012. Debt outstanding (net of sinking funds), which stood at about C\$4.5 billion at the end of 2008, is projected to increase to about C\$6.4 billion by the end of 2012. As of the end of 2007, that debt's burden was modest at about 51% of aggregate operating revenues. With the substantial net new issuance, the authority's debt burden could rise to as high as 67%.
- The loan portfolio has a substantial exposure to two key obligors. The Greater Vancouver Regional District and the related transportation authority (TransLink) represented more than 50% of total lending at the end of 2008.

Outlook

The stable outlook reflects our expectations that the B.C. municipal sector's total operating revenue will continue to rise in line with the average of the past five years, and that the sector's aggregate debt burden will remain comparable with those of 'AAA' rated municipalities outside the U.S. We expect new issuance should not exceed current expectations. Larger-than-expected borrowing, a material change in the authority's powers or business risk profile, or a significant sustained downturn of aggregate operating revenue growth would place downward pressure on ratings.

Ratings List

Ratings Affirmed

Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia

Issuer credit rating	AAA/Stable/A-1+
Senior unsecured debt (18 issues)	AAA
Commercial paper	
Global scale	A-1+
Canada scale	A-1 (High)

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FITCH AFFIRMS MUNICIPAL FINANCE AUTHORITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA AT 'AAA'

Fitch Ratings-Chicago-24 February 2009: Fitch Ratings assigns an 'AAA' rating to the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFABC), Canada's C\$400 million, series DQ debenture, dated Nov. 20, 2008. Fitch also affirms the 'AAA' rating on MFABC's outstanding senior unsecured debt. The debentures are direct and unconditional unsecured obligations of MFABC. The Rating Outlook is Stable.

The 'AAA' rating is based on the strength of the authority's joint and several security of participating municipalities, which in practice obligates all municipalities in the province for debt service repayment; the authority's financial reserves, encompassing both MFABC resources and the reserves held by all constituent municipalities; and the authority's role in facilitating debt structuring and monitoring credit conditions of municipal borrowers.

The authority maintains the unconditional power to levy ad valorem taxes province-wide, without external approval, if a municipal borrower fails to meet its debt service payments. While the authority is not immune to the effects of the global economic downturn, expressed both economically, through slightly higher provincial unemployment rates, and financially, through dampened investment earnings, the authority has stepped up its already vigilant monitoring of municipal credit quality and maintains an impeccable record of debt repayment. The authority has never had a payment default from one of its borrowers nor has it needed to draw property taxes or fiscal reserves to cure a debt service deficiency in its 39-year history.

MFABC's board and regional administrative districts consist of municipal representatives that carefully manage capital project planning and debt issuance to achieve low borrowing costs for local governments. Additionally, MFABC returns all excess earnings on investments to its borrowers, once sinking funds have earned enough to satisfy associated debt service requirements. This strategy effectively reduces borrowing costs, as sinking funds typically are large enough to cover one-third of principal.

MFABC is the borrowing vehicle for all municipalities and regional districts in the province and provides financing for general municipal projects, water and sewer infrastructure, and transportation. The joint and several pledge supporting MFABC's debt issuance requires all member governments to satisfy the obligations of a deficient borrower and ultimately requires the borrower to repay the authority for the deficiency. MFABC's sizable available liquidity includes C\$1.1 billion from sinking fund set asides and debt service reserves of approximately C\$101.3 million to deal with temporary payment interruptions. If any municipality cannot meet its payments, MFABC will draw on these unencumbered reserves. Although these fully unencumbered reserves are relatively modest, the authority also maintains a \$200 million line of credit available for any short term disruption and its taxing ability province-wide ultimately counters any related risk.

A key component supporting MFABC's financial capacity is the economic strength of British Columbia, particularly within the Greater Vancouver region. With a 2008 estimated population of 4.4 million, provincial population growth was 5.5% since 2004, compared with 4.3% for Canada over the same period. After declining to 4.6% in 2006, the lowest unemployment rate for the province in three decades, unemployment has increased to 6.1% in January 2009, up from 4.1% in January 2008. The province has experienced some softness in construction-related activity and development cost charges with the global economic downturn. However, the housing market remains relatively resilient to date in part due to substantial barriers to home ownership and continued strong housing values.

Contact: Melanie A.J. Shaker +1-312-368-3143, Chicago; or Cherian George +1-212-908-0519, New York.

Media Relations: Sandro Scenga, New York, Tel: +1 212-908-0278, Email: sandro.scenga@fitchratings.com.

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