

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2009

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR JOY DAVIES
COUNCILLOR CHRIS MOSLIN
COUNCILLOR GENE ROBERT
COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN
COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

CITY MANAGER
CITY CLERK
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

V. Kumar
L. Burch
C. Arnott

GALLERY

CALL TO ORDER:

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- None

MOTION: DAVIES / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE OCTOBER 5, 2009 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

MOTION: ROBERT / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING ON DEER MANAGEMENT, HELD ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2009, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

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... / Minutes continued on next page

MOTION: THOMPSON / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: ROBERT / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2009, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: MOSLIN / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009, AND ALL RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN, EXCEPT THE RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TOPIC OF THE PROPOSED WOOD STOVE BYLAW, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (VERBAL)

Councillor Davies:

Councillor Davies reported on the following items:

- Reported on her attendance at the UBCM Conference in Vancouver last week, stating that the six resolutions proposed by the City of Grand Forks were adopted by the UBCM Membership. She further advised that she met with Minister Bill Bennett and MLA John Slater regarding local access to legal medical marijuana at the conference.
- Reported that she had the opportunity to discuss the Economic Development Task Force with some of the attendees at the UBCM conference. She requested Council's consideration in hearing a verbal report at this meeting from the Agriculture Team of the Economic Development Task Force on the matter of a proposed community garden.

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MOTION: DAVIES / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT DAVID JANZEN, BE ALLOWED TO PRESENT A VERBAL REPORT TO COUNCIL, ON BEHALF OF THE AGRICULTURE TEAM OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE, ON THE MATTER OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROPOSAL, AT THIS MEETING. CARRIED.

Mr. Janzen advised that the team considered the two pieces of city owned property proposed by City Staff for a community garden and further advised that the Committee has determined the property on 65th Avenue as their preference. He advised that a written report will be forthcoming.

Councillor Robert:

Councillor Robert reported on the following items:

- Brought forward a complaint from a neighbor on the condition of the Cemetery. He discussed the City's plan to plant trees in the Cemetery, and suggested that this needs to be communicated to the public. It was suggested that the drawing of the location of the proposed trees to be planted in the Cemetery be reprinted in the next newsletter, as well as including an editorial on the subject.
- He advised that Grand Forks citizens are having trouble downloading KWL Report from the City's website, due to the document size. The Mayor stated that the report is available on a disc at the front desk in City Hall.
- He reported that on Tuesday Oct 6th the Phoenix Foundation will be releasing the Vital Signs Project Report, at a meeting at the Art Gallery at 5:30 p.m.
- Reported that Selkirk College will be hosting three sustainability film nights begin this Thursday, October 8th.
- Reported on his attendance at the UBCM Conference, stating that Council worked very hard on getting the Grand Forks resolutions passed as well as working with other communities on resolutions on such subjects as the proposal that the Province abandon the proposed HST.

A copy of Councillor Robert's report is attached.

Councillor Wyers:

Councillor Wyers reported on the following items:

- Reported on the September 22nd meeting of the Grand Forks Public Library Board of Directors.
 - Reported on her attendance at the UBCM Conference last week, including reporting on various sessions that she attended.
 - Reported on a complaint from a resident as to the height of a sideyard fence with their neighbors.
 - Inquired if there will be a public meeting opportunity for medical marijuana.
 - Advised that "Citizens on Patrol" will be meeting this month to discuss the future of the program in Grand Forks.
-

Councillor Thompson:

Councillor Thompson reported on the following items:

- Reported on her attendance at the UBCM Conference. She highlighted a meeting with officials of the Interior Health Authority, wherein she, the Mayor and the City Manager discussed issues that affect Boundary Hospital.
- Reported on her attendance at a meeting at the UBCM Conference with the Mayor and the City Manager and MLA John Slater regarding OmniTrax's proposed rail abandonment between Grand Forks and Cascade.
- Reported on the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal Insurance Association as Council's delegate at the meeting.
- Advised that the Phoenix Foundation will be launching the Vital Signs Report tomorrow at the Art Gallery.

A copy of Councillor Thompson's report is attached.

Councillor Moslin:

Councillor Moslin reported on the following items:

- Brought forward the matter of the Woodstove Bylaw revision process as contemplated by the Primary Committee at the September 21st meeting. He inquired if the Primary Committee would entertain discussion on a new woodstove bylaw at the November Primary Committee Meeting.

MOTION: THOMPSON / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE, RECOMMENDING THAT BYLAW NO. 1879, CITED AS CITY OF GRAND FORKS WOOD STOVE BYLAW NO. 1879, 2009, BE REFERRED BACK TO THE BOUNDARY AIR QUALITY SUB-COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE BOUNDARY AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE FORWARD BYLAW NO. 1879, IN ITS RECOMMENDED FORM TO THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION AT THEIR NOVEMBER 16TH MEETING. CARRIED

Councillors Wirischagin and Robert voted against the motion.

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- Reported on his attendance at the UBCM conference, stating that Grand Forks had the third highest number of resolutions of any community in the province.
 - Reported that the Deer count is scheduled to take place tomorrow morning. Some discussion ensued at to a strategy to deal with the deer.
 - Extended congratulations to Interfor and the people who work there on the planned re-opening of the plant.
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Councillor Wirischagin:

Councillor Wirischagin reported on the following items:

- Reported on his attendance at the UBCM Conference.
 - Reported that the Border Bruins are struggling as a hockey club and announced that the club is currently raising funds with a raffle.
-

Mayor Taylor:

- Reported on a UBCM Conference discussion about wild animals interfacing in communities.
 - Brought forward discussions that took place at the UBCM Conference with Minister Pat Bell in regards to a Community Forest Licence.
 - Brought forward the matter of adult mental health and addition services which are lacking in Grand Forks.
 - Brought forward the issue of gaming money being taken away from local non-profit organizations in providing services. He advised that this will be detrimental for our community.
 - Reported on his meeting with MLA John Slater.
-

MOTION: ROBERT / WIRISHCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT ALL REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, GIVEN VERBALLY AT THIS MEETING, INCLUDING THE MAYOR'S REPORT ON REGIONAL ISSUES, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY (VERBAL)

None

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS:

a) City Clerk's Report – Development Permit

MOTION: MOSLIN / ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DATED SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2009, REGARDING THE APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT MARKET AVENUE, BE RECEIVED.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE ISSUANCE OF A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT TO RE-DEVELOP PROPERTY ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT MARKET AVENUE, LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 1, D.L. 108 AND 339s, S.D.Y.D, PLAN 34642, SUBJECT TO THE COMPLETION OF THE SIDEWALK ADJACENT TO THE BUILDING ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE FROM THE END OF THE BUILDING NORTH TO END OF PROPERTY, AND CONDITIONAL UPON THE OWNER GRANTING THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS AN EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS ALONG THE BOARDWALK, INSUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER AGENT, WILLIAM LING.

CARRIED.

b) City Clerk's Report – Financial Report to August 31, 2009

The Chief Financial Officer made a presentation to Council on the financial activities of the municipality to August 31, 2009. By way of power-point presentation, the CFO outlined key issues, current capital projects, infrastructure, financial plan 2010 – 2014, etc. A copy of the presentation made by the CFO is attached.

MOTION: THOMPSON / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY 1ST TO AUGUST 31ST, 2009, AND THE PRESENTATION MADE BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AT THIS MEETING.

CARRIED.

REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) City Clerk's Report – Building Bylaw Contravention Show Cause Hearing

MOTION: THOMPSON / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY CLERK'S REPORT, DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2009, REGARDING A BUILDING BYLAW CONTRAVENTION, AND COUNCIL PROVIDING THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT THIS MEETING UNDER SECTION 57 OF THE COMMUNITY CHARTER, BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

MOTION: MOSLIN/DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT INFORMATION ITEMS NUMBERED 11(a) TO 10(j)

- a) Letter from Phoenix Mountain Alpine Ski Society requesting consideration in extending financial support of the Phoenix Ski Hill– Recommend that support be considered in the 2010-2014 Financial Plan Public Process.

- b) Letter from the Kootenay Library Federation announcing the first annual "One Book One Kootenay" project. Recommendation to file.
- c) Correspondence from Brian Burdikin thanking Council for the scholarship awarded to him. Recommendation to file.
- d) Correspondence from Ms Triveri and Ms Boscaroli expressing concerns regarding the condition of the Evergreen Cemetery. Recommended that the Mayor respond to their letter outlining that maintenance in the Cemetery is conditional upon the level of funding available, that the donate a bench program is available for the Cemetery and that City Staff is working with the museum at the heritage courthouse in providing cemetery information to the travelling public.
- e) Letter from the Minister of State Transport in response to the City's expressed concerns regarding rural postal services in the community. Recommendation to File.
- f) Email notice from the Minister of Community and Rural Development that Strategic Community Investment Funds of \$230,527 will be transferred to the City's account shortly. Recommendation to File.
- g) Correspondence from Helen Routledge on Lyme Disease carried by deer. Recommendation to file.
- h) Invitation to Mayor and Council to attend the Grand Opening of Infant & Toddler Program at the Little People's Centre. Recommended a letter of apology be sent to the Little People's Centre as Council was not available to attend their Grand Opening.
- i) AKBLG Renewable Energy Workshop on October 24th at Selkirk College in Castlegar, RSVP by October 16th. Recommendation to file.
- j) September 21st Meeting Task List. Recommendation to file.

BE RECEIVED AND ACTED UPON AS RECOMMENDED AND/OR AS AMENDED.

CARRIED.

BYLAWS:

a) City Clerk's Report – Bylaw 1886 – 2010 Annual Tax Exemption Bylaw

Councillor Wirischagin stated his intention to vacate Council Chambers at this time due to the fact that his wife, Jessica, is the president of the Grand Forks Child Care Society, which organization is included in the 2010 Annual tax Exemption Bylaw, and that in participating in the matter he may be perceived to be in a conflict of interest. Councillor Wirischagin left Council Chambers at 8:55 p.m.

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MOTION: THOMPSON / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1886, CITED AS "Year 2010 Annual Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 1886", BE GIVEN FIRST READING.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: ROBERT / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1886, CITED AS "Year 2010 Annual Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 1886", BE GIVEN SECOND READING.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: THOMPSON / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1886, CITED AS "Year 2010 Annual Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 1886", BE GIVEN THIRD READING.

CARRIED.

Councillor Wirischagin returned to Council Chambers at 8:57 p.m.

b) City Clerk's Report – Bylaw 1883 – Local Area Service Establishment Bylaw

MOTION: ROBERT / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1883, CITED AS "NORTHWEST 79TH AVENUE LOCAL AREA SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW, 2009", BE GIVEN FIRST READING.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: THOMPSON / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1883, CITED AS "NORTHWEST 79TH AVENUE LOCAL AREA SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW, 2009", BE GIVEN SECOND READING.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1883, CITED AS "NORTHWEST 79TH AVENUE LOCAL AREA SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW, 2009", BE GIVEN THIRD READING.

CARRIED.

c) City Clerk's Report – Bylaw 1880 – Northwest 79th Avenue Local Area Service Loan Authorization Bylaw

MOTION: ROBERT / THOMPSON ^{7 JB}

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1880, CITED AS "NORTHWEST 79TH AVENUE LOCAL AREA SERVICE LOAN AUTHORIZATION BYLAW NO. 1887", BE GIVEN FIRST READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: WYERS / WIRISCHAGIN ^{7 JB}

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1880, CITED AS "NORTHWEST 79TH AVENUE LOCAL AREA SERVICE LOAN AUTHORIZATION BYLAW NO. 1887", BE GIVEN SECOND READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / DAVIES ^{7 JB}

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1880, CITED AS "NORTHWEST 79TH AVENUE LOCAL AREA SERVICE LOAN AUTHORIZATION BYLAW NO. 1887", BE GIVEN THIRD READING.

CARRIED.

LATE ITEMS:

None

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA:

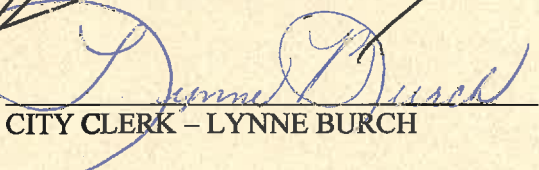
ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE ADJOURNED AT 9:15 P.M. CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


CITY CLERK - LYNNE BURCH

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON
REPORT TO REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
OCTOBER 5, 2009

I attended the annual UBCM conference held September 28th thru October 2nd in Vancouver.

It was a very informative session and a wonderful opportunity to network with other Mayors and Councillors from throughout the province.

During my time there, I along with Mayor Taylor and our City Manager, Victor Kumar, attended a meeting with Murray Ramsden, CEO and Norm Embree, Chair, of the Interior Health Authority to discuss issues that affect our hospital. After consulting with Ingrid Hampf, we put forward the following three issues:

1. More resources put toward tele-conferencing that would save patients from having to travel for follow-up appointments.

2. More resources put toward travelling specialists. Currently there are six specialists that travel to Grand Forks on a monthly basis. They are 2 OB/GYN's; an orthopedic surgeon; two general surgeons and one pediatrician.

3. More resources for cancer care and chemotherapy. Some patients are being required to travel to Trail or Kelowna to receive services that could and should be provided locally, particularly infusion treatments.

We were assured by Mr. Ramsden that he would follow up on these issues with Ms. Hampf.

We were advised by IHA that the cardiac care unit in Kelowna is scheduled to open October 21st. Further, IHA requested our support on two items: 1. - building a helipad at Trail Regional Hospital. IHA is the only area with no dedicated helicopter services. 2. - supporting Supportive Housing through BC Housing.

I, along with Mayor Taylor and our City Manager, Victor Kumar, and other members of the BEDC attended a meeting with our MLA, John Slater, to discuss the issue of

OmniTrax's proposed rail abandonment between Laurier and Kettle Falls, and their application to abandon the rail line between Grand Forks (Pacific Abrasives) and the re-load station at Cascade. It was emphatically stressed to Mr. Slater that we require support from the Provincial Government in this regard, and Mr. Slater assured us he would bring this matter up with Minister of Transportation, Shirley Bond.

I was Council's delegate to the Municipal Insurance Association of BC's Annual Meeting held September 29th. We were advised that municipalities can apply for grants to fund risk management training. These grants range from \$500.00 to \$20,000.00.

Regrettably, our resolution regarding the consolidation of the sections of the Local Government Act and Community Charter dealing with elections was not recommended for endorsement by the UBCM nor was it brought to the floor for debate due to time constraints. However, Premier Campbell announced during his speech on Friday that legislation would be introduced well before the next local government election to create a Local Government Elections Act, which would have made our resolution redundant anyway.

The Phoenix Foundation will be launching the Vital Signs Report tomorrow at 6:30 PM in the Art Gallery. I invite all of Council and the viewing public to attend this exciting event.

COUNCIL REPORT OCT 5/09

10/3/2009 1:46:00 PM

Council & Managers1) THE GRAVEYARD. WHAT IS THE PLAN? SEPT 26-
PULLING STUMPS AND LEVELLING 10 FT PINES

From: Phil McGirr <phimcgi@yahoo.ca>

Date: September 26, 2009 9:18:55 AM PDT

To: councillorrobert@telus.net

Subject: destruction

Here are 5 pics I just took of the mess across the street. About 2 months ago a couple of guys planted the propaganda sign you see in the photo, detracting from the view out our front window. Of course, last year they deforested the entire area east of the lawned part of the cemetery creating an eyesore and decreasing our property value. I think our property taxes should be reduced as partial compensation for unconscionable clear-cut they placed across the street from us. I am pretty sure money changed hands somewhere in this whole disaster.

Phil McGirr, .R

From: Victor Kumar **October 5, 2009 9:22:19 AM**
Subject: Re(2): TAKING OUT TREES AT THE CEMERTERY
To: Council & Managers
Cc: Diane Heinrich
Attachments: Cemetery Plan Trees09 2.JPG **439K**

Good morning all

Attached is the outline of the plan for planting trees in the Cemetery under the Job Opportunities Funds and Trees for Tomorrow grants in the amount of \$100,000. Last year Council was presented with this plan. The work being undertaken at the present time is to remove the stumps left from the past storm and beetle kill trees that were removed last year.

The green dots on the attached drawing outline the areas where trees are being planted with irrigation. A total of 160 trees will be planted in the Cemetery. I will have the attached drawing on the screen for tonights Council meeting if a question arises.

I trust the foregoing clarifes the improvements being undertaken at the Cemetery.

Gene Robert writes:

I have just recieved this email from a very angry citizen. Is there a "Plan" in place for the graveyard. I would like to recomend that this subject be on the agenda of our next Council meeting. The anger in this neighbourhood is red hot.

2) From: Yvonne Johnston <showmeasmile@telus.net>

Date: September 29, 2009 12:15:36 PM PDT

Subject: Re: Kerr Liedal Report - messed up

Thank you Gene. Unfortunately the pdf file is messed up and while it opens fine and the maps come through clearly the text is overlapped and therefore it's pretty much impossible to read. I couldn't find this report on the City's web site either - so need directions on where to find it. Thanks for your effort!

3) Gene I haven't heard anything about if we have permission to go ahead with the neighborhood garden we would like to know so we could gather leaves to dig them in. Wia Francis 1363-71rst street.

4) **From:** "Colin Johnston & Becky Deane" <colbec@shaw.ca>

Date: October 1, 2009 9:00:44 AM PDT

To: "becky School" <becky.deane@sd51.bc.ca>

Subject: Boundary Communities' Vital Signs

Hello Everyone,

On **Tuesday October 6th**, the Phoenix Foundation will be launching the Boundary Communities' Vital Signs, a report card of our community through the eyes its residents.

Vital Signs is a community check up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends and shares opportunities for action in 11 areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is being coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

The reception begins at 5:30 with the launch of Boundary Communities' Vital Signs at 6:30 at the Grand Forks Art Gallery.

Just wanted to let you know that SELKIRK COLLEGE cheduled three sustainability film night that begin this Thursday, Oct. 8. We will be showing the film Refugees of the Blue Planet with a discussion facilitated by Roly Russell.

Subsequent films will be Baraka: a World Beyond Words to be shown on Nov. 5 and Bill Moyers reports: Earth on Edge to be shown on Dec. 3. The films and discussion run from 7-9:30 pm and the cost is \$5 each or \$15 for the series.

If you are interested in attending one or all of these films, please register SOON.

UBCM—"PROVINCE OF CHAMPIONS"

**RESOLUTIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE HARMONIZED SALES TAX-
VANCOUVER—WHEREAS THE HARMONIZED SALES TAX HST WILL
IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL 7% TAX ON CONSUMER GOODS THAT ARE
CURRENTLY PST EXEMPT INCLUDING SCHOOL SUPPLIES,
RESTURANT MEALS, HYDRO BILLS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT, STRATA
FEES AND NEW HOMES AND WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON
EXISTING AND FUTURE RENTAL STOCK**

**AND WHEREAS THE HST WILL SHIFT 1.9BILLION IN TAXES ANNUALLY
TO INDIVIDUAL TAX PAYERS WHO WILL AN AERAGE INCREASE OF
\$800 PER YEAR**

**AND WHEREAS THE BC GOV'T HAS INDICATED THAT INCREASED
REVENUES GENERATED BY THE HST WILL BE USED TO SUBSIDIZE
BUSINESS, BUT NONE OF THE NEW TAX REVENUES WILL BE USED TO
FUND HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AFFORDABLE HOUSING OR JOB
CREATION**

**AND WHEREAS THE BC GOV'T DID NOT CONSULT BRITISH
COLUMBIANS OR MUNICIPALITIES ON THE EFFECT OF THE HST
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNION OF BC
MUNICIPALITIES REQUEST THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOV'T ABANDON
ITS PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE HST.**

UBCM---ENDORSED.

**2) QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS—
GRAND FORKS (COUNCILLOR ROBERT AND THOMPSON)**

**WHEREAS INDUSTRY DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES ARE FEELING THE
NEGATIVE IMPACT RESULTING FROM LAYOFFS OF WORKERS IN
THIS TIME OF ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UBCM PETITION THE
FEDERAL GOV'T TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOURS REQUIRED TO
QUALIFY FOR EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS FROM THE
CURRENT 910 HOURS TO 640 HOURS AND THE BENEFITS BE
INCREASED TO 75% OF WAGES FROM THE CURRENT 55% OF WAGES
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVE THEIR FIRST BENEFIT PAYMENT WITHIN 2 WEEKS**

OF CONFIRMATION OF THERE ELEGIBILITY.

UBCM RESOLUTION COMMITTEE PROPOSED A AMENDMENT
ALLOW MORE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR EI BY
REDUCING THE NUMBER OF WORK HOURS REQUIRED TO QUALIFY
ELIMINATE REGIONALIZATION OF EI ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS(WHICH
ARE TIED TO REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES) AND MOVE TOWARDS A
SYSTEM WHICH IS BASED ON A MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED
THAT WOULD BE THE SAME ACROSS THE COUNTRY
ENHANCE BENEFITS FROM CURRENT LEVELS (55% OF CLAIMANTS WEEKLY
AVERAGE EARNINGS AND ELIMINATE THE 2 WEEK WAITING PERIOD FOR EI
UBCM ENDORSED.

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON
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