



Memo to Council

Date: May 1, 2023

Subject: Banning of Rodeos – Motion Served by Councillor Knowles

Motion Served

Notice of the following motion was provided at the April 25, 2023, Regular Council meeting:

THAT the City of Port Moody pass a motion of Council that Rodeos be banned in Port Moody.

Proposed addition to this motion

AND THAT the following resolution regarding Banning Rodeos in BC be endorsed by the City of Port Moody and forwarded for consideration at the 2024 UBCM convention as recommended in the memo dated May 1, 2023, from Councillor Kyla Knowles regarding Banning of Rodeos:

WHEREAS it is widely known that animals involved in Rodeos are often hurt, intentionally and unintentionally, and sometimes even killed for the sake of human entertainment;

AND WHEREAS even the small number of catastrophic injuries are unacceptable, and that the sport's practices, including calf roping, bull riding and bronc riding, are inherently cruel and can terrorize animals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Province of British Columbia ban the practice of rodeos in BC.

Background

Bucking, roping, wrestling and mutton busting events rely on the use of fear, pain, discomfort and stress through rough handling practices and aversive tools to make animals buck or flee. Photos and videos from recent rodeos held in British Columbia show stressed, disoriented and frightened animals being deliberately agitated into fleeing and bucking; animals thrashing around in the rodeo chutes; and animals being put at risk of injury and death for the sake of public entertainment. Vancouver Humane Society footage: <https://youtu.be/gutElpybHGQ>

Research shows that calves experience elevated stress hormones when being chased and roped in rodeo events. There is also a risk of injury and death for animals used in rodeos. For example, steers are likely to experience pain and bruising as a result of having their neck

twisted and being thrown to the ground. Research has also found that bulls used in bucking events are far more likely to experience spinal, horn and sinus issues than non-bucking bulls.

The routine rough handling of animals in these rodeo events also completely contradicts industry requirements and best practices for the handling of farmed animals, which call for quiet and calm handling approaches.

As our society's understanding of animal welfare has expanded, it's no surprise that public polling shows the majority of Canadians are opposed to the use of animals in rodeo events. Indeed, the City of Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver have both passed a municipal bylaw that prohibits inhumane rodeo events and practices, including bucking, roping, wrestling and mutton busting.

I have included the above proposed addition to my original motion as this is an important issue for all the communities in the province, and it should be considered by all municipalities that value animal welfare.

Council Strategic Priorities

- Facilitate community well-being through programs and long-term planning
- Determine strategic direction for existing and future civic facilities

Council Options

The following options are available for Council consideration:

1. Receive for information.
2. Refer to staff for a report back on the feasibility of the proposed motion considering budget, alignment with Council's Strategic Priorities, and work plan implications, including but not limited to operational capacity, policy, legality, etc.
3. Other.