



Memo to Council

From the Office of Councillor Amy Lubik

Date: August 31, 2020

Subject: Request to pull Resolution NEB8 Greenhouse Gas Limits for New Buildings from UBCM Voting Block

In 2019, Port Moody submitted a motion to include an emissions CAP in Stepcode to Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) and Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), which was endorsed at LMLGA and was not endorsed by UBCM. The resolution was not endorsed because it did not take the needs of rural and remote communities into account. Because this is such an important topic to Port Moody, we then worked with councillors to make sure it could be amended to meet their needs and resubmitted it for 2020.

Since the book of resolutions was released, this recommendation was set in the “Not Endorse” block (NEB8 Greenhouse Gas Limits for New Buildings). The reasoning is as follows:

Committee advises that the UBCM membership did not endorse a similar resolution, B152, that was submitted by the same sponsor in 2019. Specifically, the 2019 resolution asks for “Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to include GHG limits for new construction as an enforceable element in Division B of the British Columbia Building Code, including a pathway to achieve zero GHG emissions for new construction in a timeline commensurate with the science of climate change and BC’s reduction targets;”. This is the same enactment clause as 2019-B152 which was rejected by the membership. This current resolution makes an additional ask, beyond what was in 2019-B152, that requests the Province to liaise with AKBLG, NCLGA and SILGA to ensure that there are provisions in the GHG limits that take into account and support the unique circumstances faced by rural communities.

Port Moody has until the September 18th to write the UBCM executive and request that this be pulled from the block for debate. It should be argued that this is being brought back precisely because we heard and listened to the concerns of our fellow councillors and amended it as such. We are still in a climate emergency and building emissions are still one of the biggest components of municipal GHG emissions.

Suggested Recommendation:

Whereas; the resolution was updated in consultation with smaller communities to address the concerns that they raised during the 2019 UBCM resolution debate;

Whereas; Climate Change is accelerating so the context for the resolution has shifted

Whereas; Port Moody has learned approximately 46% of its emissions come from buildings and primarily their heating and hot water energy

Whereas; A Step 5 building with gas heat and hot water can have much higher emissions than a Step 1 building with zero-emissions energy heating and hot water
Whereas building emissions is a much more urgent issue than general building efficiency and where we have less than 10 years to solve this urgent issue

Whereas; over the last year, Port Moody has seen building proposals consistent with the Step code, but still using high-emissions gas water and home heating

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Port Moody request the UBCM Executive remove from the not endorse block resolution NEB8 Greenhouse Gas Limits for New Buildings;

AND THAT The City of Port Moody request the UBCM Executive that resolution NEB8 Greenhouse Gas Limits for New Buildings be added to the debate;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the UBCM Executives.