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

September 3, 2009

Mayor and Council
District of West Vancouver
750 - 17th Street
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T3

Dear Mayor and Council,

Burnaby City Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2009 August 31 received information on the situations occurring in four BC municipalities; Port Alberni, North Cowichan, Campbell River and Powell River with respect to the non payment of industrial property taxes.

Burnaby Council believes this action will have far reaching, potentially devastating impacts on local governments across the Province. As a result Council adopted the attached resolution in support of these Communities and would request every local government in the Province do the same.

In addition, we have submitted this resolution to the UBCM as a late resolution which will hopefully be considered for discussion at the forthcoming Convention, and written to Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development requesting the Provincial Government assist in defending against the legal challenge put forward by Catalyst Paper.

Your support in defending against the actions of Catalyst Paper will send a strong message to industry and the Provincial Government that the preservation of our legislated authority to establish and collect property taxes is fundamental to the well being of our citizens and must be respected by business, industry and senior governments alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this most important matter.

Very truly yours,

Nicolas M. Volkow,
Acting Mayor

CITY OF BURNABY

RESOLUTION

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY TAXES

“THAT WHEREAS Catalyst Paper has not fully remitted property taxes to the City of Port Alberni and three other communities (North Cowichan, Campbell River, and Powell River) as per the assessed amount of property taxes;

AND WHEREAS Catalyst Paper has served the City of Port Alberni with a petition to the Supreme Court of British Columbia that the major industry property tax rate is illegal;

AND WHEREAS this act is in defiance of the bylaw duly instituted by a democratically elected, autonomous and accountable order of government;

AND WHEREAS the Community Charter requires a local government to respond to the overall needs of its community determining levels of expenditures and taxation that are appropriate to deliver its services in a manner which are responsive to the community needs;

AND WHEREAS non-payment of taxes by property owners is not only illegal, it inhibits a City’s ability to deliver its mandated services, such as fire protection, law enforcement, roads, sewer, water, parks and recreation;

AND WHEREAS, if unchallenged, this non-payment of property taxes may be taken as a precedent;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Burnaby urge all local governments within British Columbia to strongly condemn Catalyst Paper’s actions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council write to the Provincial Government to support the four communities in opposing the court action;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council be prepared to assist the four communities in their legal action and urge all local governments in the UBCM to likewise;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of the UBCM including the four affected communities;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be submitted to the UBCM as a late resolution for the upcoming convention on September 29, 2009.

Adopted by Burnaby City Council
Open Council Meeting
2009 August 31



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

September 3, 2009

Honourable Bill Bennett
Minister of Community and Rural Development
PO Box 9490 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9N7

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Burnaby City Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2009 August 31 received information on the situations occurring in four BC municipalities; Port Alberni, North Cowichan, Campbell River and Powell River with respect to the non payment of industrial property taxes.

Burnaby Council believes this action will have far reaching, potentially devastating impacts on local governments across the Province. As a result Council adopted the attached resolution in support of these Communities and have requested every local government in the Province do the same.

In addition, we have submitted this resolution to the UBCM as a late resolution which we are requesting be considered for discussion at the forthcoming Convention later this month.

The Province of B. C. has, through various legislative means, provided local governments with the opportunity to establish and collect taxes, primarily property taxes, to ensure ongoing funding for the provision of services to our citizens. This action on the part of Catalyst Paper strikes at the heart of that legislated authority; undermining the ability of elected, accountable, and responsible local governments to provide for their citizens.

The support of the Provincial Government, in defending against the actions of Catalyst Paper, will send a strong and important message to industry that the preservation of our legislated authority to establish and collect property taxes is fundamental to the well being of our citizens and must be respected by business and industry alike.

Therefore, we formally request the Provincial Government, through the Ministry of Community and Rural Development to provide support to the local governments of the City of Port Alberni, District of North Cowichan, City of Campbell River and District of Powell River as they defend against the legal action initiated by Catalyst Paper.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicolas M. Volkow".

Nicolas M. Volkow,
Acting Mayor

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