

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OCTOBER 7, 2002

CLEAN AIR FOR HEALTY COMMUNITIES

Recommendation

Councillor Mario G. Racco recommends that the Government of Canada accelerate the delivery of its Clean Air Agenda, by passing the attached resolution.

Purpose

Be it resolved that the City of Vaughan Council call on the Government of Canada to accelerate the delivery of its Clean Air Agenda and specifically focus on the need to: develop and implement a comprehensive Clean Air Action Plan.

Background - Analysis and Options

To develop and implement a comprehensive Clean Air Action Plan.

- advance scientific understanding of the link between air pollution and health;
- provide financial resources to the municipal governments for programs that cut smog and climate pollution;
- ensure Canadians have access to accurate information on the quality of their air and on action they can take to reduce their exposure and their emissions;
- ensure significant emissions reductions from the transportation sector; and
- partner with provincial/territorial governments to encourage stronger pollution reduction standards for industry and the electric power generation sector and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be communicated to our Member of Parliament, Federal environment, health and finance Ministers, Provincial/Territorial financial, health, environment and energy Ministries, Federal and Provincial/Territorial opposition Leaders, community media and Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Conclusion

That City of Vaughan Council adopt the attached resolution, and that the Clerks Department fax the resolution back to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities before October 18, 2002.

Attachments

Model Resolution: Municipal Governments Urge Action on Clean Air

Report prepared by:

Antonette DiNovo, Council Administrative Assistant to Councillor Mario G. Racco

Respectfully submitted,

Mario G. Racco
Councillor

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MODEL RESOLUTION

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS URGE ACTION ON CLEAN AIR

WHEREAS a high quality of life depends on healthy and sustainable communities;

WHEREAS air pollution threatens quality of life;

WHEREAS exposure to today's concentrations of fine particulate matter, a major component of smog, increases the risk of premature death, asthma attacks, breathing difficulty, lung cancer and heart attacks;

WHEREAS thousands of Canadians die prematurely each year from air pollution;

WHEREAS health costs from air pollution reaches \$1 billion dollars annually in Ontario alone, according to the Ontario Medical Association;

WHEREAS Canadians need to be fully informed on the state of the air they breathe;

WHEREAS Canadians need to better understand options for cutting air pollution;

WHEREAS it is known that the pollution causing smog can contribute to climate change, and that taking action on clean air will also help protect the climate;

WHEREAS municipal governments must partner with federal and provincial/territorial governments to develop and implement programs and policies to improve air quality;

WHEREAS the 2001 Speech from Throne made clean air a priority for the Government of Canada;

WHEREAS more scientific research is needed to better understand the link between air pollution and health;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ call on the Government of Canada to accelerate the delivery of its Clean Air Agenda and specifically focus on the need to: develop and implement a comprehensive Clean Air Action Plan that will:

- advance scientific understanding of the link between air pollution and health;
- provide financial resources to municipal governments for programs that cut smog and climate pollution;
- ensure Canadians have access to accurate information on the quality of their air and on action they can take to reduce their exposure and their emissions;
- ensure significant emission reductions from the transportation sector; and
- partner with provincial/territorial governments to encourage stronger pollution reduction standards for industry and the electric power generation sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be communicated to our Member of Parliament, federal environment, health and finance ministers, provincial/territorial finance, health, environment and energy ministers, federal and provincial/territorial opposition leaders, community media and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

NAME ELECTED OFFICIAL

MUNICIPALITY

DATE

FAX BACK TO: (613) 241-7440 by October 18, 2002