

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Re: Provincial Sale/Franchising of Coquihalla Highway

THAT the City of Kelowna write to its MLA(s) opposing the government's stated goal of selling/franchising the Coquihalla Highway;

AND THAT a copy of the letter be sent to the Premier and to the Minister of Transportation and all other MLAs in the OMMA area.

BACKGROUND

It is apparent that the province is determined to receive a significant upfront cash investment from the Coquihalla. Their intent is to put this money into a "provincial pot" and invest these funds into capital highway projects across the province.

In 1984 user fees were announced to be placed on Coquihalla Highway, not to pay for the cost of the entire Coquihalla Highway but only to pay for the cost of accelerating its construction between Nicolum Creek and the City of Merritt which cost was identified by the McKay Commission as \$52 million. The accelerating construction costs ended up being around \$350 million and the province has now generated over \$550 million from tolls with the excess being contributed to general revenues.

OMMA has been the only area of the province required to pay tolls for the past 15 years. During that same period the OMMA area also received far less provincial funds for capital expenditure on new transportation infrastructure than other areas of the province.

The OMMA members have clearly stated that they do not want the highway franchised/sold and if the toll is not removed then revenue must be more fairly distributed within the OMMA region.

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