



PORT MOODY
CITY OF THE ARTS

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File: 4200-00

via Email

Dear UBCM Member Municipalities:

Re: Proposed Increase in the Interval Between Civic Elections from Three Years to Four Years

The following resolution, submitted by Port Moody Council for consideration at the 2007 UBCM Convention, was subsequently endorsed by the UBCM and forwarded to the provincial government:

WHEREAS many provinces, including Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and New Brunswick, have four-year civic election terms, a term length which reflects the accepted period between elections in the provincial and federal contexts;

AND WHEREAS four-year election terms would likely be more productive for councils and staff and would save taxpayer money:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities ask the provincial government to increase the interval between civic elections from three years to four years.

The provincial response was as follows:

"Increasing the length of the term of office for local government elected officials would be a significant change to the election process. Among other things, it would affect the commitment that people must make to a position that may on occasion come into conflict with their jobs, families and other responsibilities. The requested change may result in an increase in the number of local government by-elections. Therefore, it is recommended that all of the implications of this proposal be fully investigated. Broad public consultation would be required before any commitment could be given to consider legislative changes. Individual local governments may wish to consider holding a referendum on this issue at the 2008 general local election."

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Accordingly, Port Moody Council, at its June 10, 2008 Regular Council meeting, passed the following resolution:

THAT as authorized by Section 83 of the Community Charter, Council seek community opinion on increasing the interval between civic elections from three years to four years by including the following question on the ballot for the 2008 general local government election:

"Are you in favour of increasing the interval between civic elections from three years to four years?"

AND THAT the foregoing resolution be shared with other provincial municipalities.

Council encourages other municipalities to seek community opinion on this issue.

Yours truly,



Kelly Kenney
City Clerk