



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

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NOTICE OF MOTION

Request for Notice of Motion, Pursuant to Sections 37 and 38, Council Procedure Bylaw, 2715, 2009.

Introduced: Regular Council – April 18, 2016

From: Councillor Meagan Brame

Subject: Parental Rights for Elected Officials

WHEREAS: the BC Employment Standards Act guarantees the rights of parents to maternity and parental leave;

AND WHEREAS: the Local Government Act and Community Charter fail to protect parental rights of local government elected officials, requiring council or regional district board approval of leave for elected officials who become parents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Township of Esquimalt support the resolution that was carried at the April 2016 AVICC Conference requesting that UBCM encourage the Provincial government to amend the Local Government Act and the Community Charter to guarantee maternity and parental leave for elected officials to be consistent with the Employment Standards Act provisions following the birth or adoption of a child;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the legislation be amended to permit the elected official to return to work on the same terms that were in place at the start of their leave, and that any changes in the elected official's appointments to committees, boards or commissions will not be made as a result of the maternity or parental leave.

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE:

This resolution will work to further the overarching strategic priority to continue to enhance the health and liveability of the community. In order for council to continue to have a diverse group on council, considerations need to be made for all stages of family and life cycle, including young men or women with babies.

BACKGROUND:

This particular section of the Community Charter has not been reviewed in a number of years and residents are electing younger officials in the hope of getting a more diverse council representation. To encourage a variety of people at different stages of their lives to run for council the area of parental leave needs to be reviewed.