

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM17.22	ACTION			Ward:All
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Endorsing the Government of Canada's Commitment at COP21 - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council endorse the Government of Canada's commitment made at the 21st session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) and supported by over 190 national governments to limit global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
2. City Council encourage the Government of Canada to develop an action plan to meet the commitment endorsed at COP21.
3. City Council forward this Motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and request that Federation of Canadian Municipalities adopt this commitment as part of it policy objectives.

Summary

In December 2015, national governments met in Paris for the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21). At this meeting an Agreement was reached by 196 parties, including Canada, reaffirming the international commitment to limit global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius and agreeing to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celcius. Canada endorses the Agreement.

Maintaining global warming below two degrees is recognized as necessary to reduce and avoid significant changes to the world's climatic systems and to stem the increase of extreme weather events and other global changes, such as rising sea levels. The changes occurring in the global climate pose serious threats to our natural environment, our health, our jobs and economy.

While the Paris Agreement is an Agreement amongst national governments, cities are essential

to its implementation. Not only do the majority of the world's population live in cities, in Canada alone over 80 percent of the population lives in urban areas. It is also well documented that 70 percent of climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions are generated as a result of the activities occurring in cities, including the use of energy for the transport of goods and people; the heating, lighting, and cooling of buildings; and the operation of industrial activities. As well as the generation of solid waste also contributes to increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

On the flip side, cities are also extremely vulnerable to the negative impacts of a changing climate, in particular extreme weather events.

The Paris Agreement is in line with the City of Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. City Council in July 2007 unanimously adopted the goal of reducing Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050 against 1990 levels and in April 2015 reaffirmed its commitment to this goal with the launch of TransformTO: Climate Action for a Healthy, Prosperous and Equitable Toronto. Toronto has seen locally generated greenhouse gas emissions reduced by an estimated 25 percent since 1990, highlighting the key role cities play in reducing emissions. Toronto is also taking action to ensure that the City is resilient to the changes occurring to the climate and extreme weather events.

National and internationally, it is well documented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and international organizations, such as the C40 Cities and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives that cities are acting now and succeeding in making the transition to a low-carbon future. Ensuring that the COP21 goals form part of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' policy platform and advocacy will signal clear municipal support for the federal government's action on climate change.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion 17.22