

City Council**Notice of Motion**

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| MM28.21 | ACTION | | | Ward:All |
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Supporting Bill S238, "The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act" - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker

** 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 Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, recommends that:

1. City Council express its support to the Prime Minister and Government of Canada for Bill S238, The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act.
2. City Council request the City Clerk to forward this Motion to the Premier of Ontario and request the Premier of Ontario to consider instituting a ban of the sale of shark fin and shark fin food products in the Province of Ontario.
3. City Council request the City Clerk to forward this Motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and encourage them and their membership to express support for Bill S-238 to the Government of Canada.

Summary

On April 11, 2017, Senator Michael MacDonald introduced Bill S-238, "An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (importation of shark fins)", also referred to as "The Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act". This Bill will create a law that will prohibit the inhumane act of shark finning and to ban the importation of shark fins that have been harvested through shark finning.

In October 2011, City Council enacted a by-law that prohibited the possession, sale and consumption of shark fin and shark fin food products and also requested the Federal Government to introduce proactive regulations to ban the importation of shark fin, cartilage and all other derivative products to Canada and to undertake to actively protect shark populations in Canadian waters. The by-law lost a challenge at the Ontario Supreme Court of Justice.

Shark finning is a wasteful, inhumane practice that involves cutting off a shark's fins and then

tossing the still-live shark back overboard to drown, bleed to death, or be eaten alive by other animals. Each year, up to 73 million sharks are killed primarily for their fins, threatening one-third of open ocean sharks with extinction. While shark fins are considered a delicacy in some restaurants, they have no significant nutritional value and are considered unhealthy for human consumption due to the accumulation of high levels of mercury and other toxins in the fins and flesh.

The Canadian Government has banned "shark finning" in Canadian waters since 1994 as has the United States (2009) and the European Community (2003), but the sale and importation of shark fins continues in cities across Canada and the world. States and municipal governments – including Hawaii, Guam, Washington State, Oregon and California - representing over 47 million people have introduced or proposed bans on the trade and consumption of shark fins, with legislators in mainland China and Indonesia initiating bans and restrictions as well.

A ban on the importation of shark fin would have a significant impact on the shark fin industry in Canada and would reduce the demand for shark fin imports and subsequently the practice of shark finning. City Council has already taken a position to stand against the practice of shark finning. Endorsing Bill S-238 will demonstrate Council's commitment to protecting shark populations and help prevent the extinction of shark species.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion 28.21