

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM43.18	ACTION			Ward:All
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Requesting the Government of Canada to Suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement - by Councillor Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc

** 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 Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Government of Canada to suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the United States due to the actions taken by the United States Government, in particular the policy of separating children from parents who are seeking refugee status.

Summary

The Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the United States requires refugee claimants to request refugee protection in the first safe country they arrive in, unless they qualify for an exception. According to the RCMP, since April last year, the number of asylum seekers crossing into Canada through the United States border has nearly tripled.

In light of the shifting immigration policies in the United States where children of refugee claimants are detained in facilities separate from their parents, the United States can no longer be framed as a safe country. From April 19 to May 31, 2018, 2,000 children have been forcibly removed from their parents by the United States Government's border patrol agents.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has condemned the United States' current practice as an abuse of human rights.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM43.18