



CITY OF LANGLEY

MOTION

RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION TO UBCM – SUPPORT FOR ICAN CITIES APPEAL - Councillor Storteboom

BACKGROUND:

At its November 2, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, a Langley resident and World Beyond War peace advocate, provided a PowerPoint presentation to Council on the World Beyond War organization's mandate to end all wars through non-violent means, providing information on the following:

- Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:
 - was recently ratified
 - will come into legal force in January 2021
 - is binding on the 50 countries which ratified it
 - 122 countries signed it in July 2017
 - can influence the behaviour of states not party to the treaty as evidenced by other weapons prohibition treaties
- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Mayors for Peace Cities Appeal:
 - how to endorse the appeal
 - the importance of local governments in nations that have not ratified the treaty to endorse the Mayors for Peace Cities Appeal
 - Canada has not yet ratified the treaty
 - requested that the City write to the federal government asking that they endorse the treaty without delay and also inform the media and City residents and take steps to ensure that funds administered by the City are not invested in companies that produce nuclear weapons
- Fossil Fuels/Climate Change:
 - even with Paris Accord, experts advise the temperature will rise by 4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial levels
 - thanked City Council for its work on climate action to date
 - ask Council to resolve to divest from fossil fuels and weapons
 - Vancouver City Council has made great strides in this regard by endorsing the Fossil Fuels Non-proliferation treaty

- Weapons and War Preparations:
 - Canada has embarked on 20-year plan to spend over half a trillion dollars on militarism, of which \$70 billion dollars will be spent on the purchase of 15 warships, \$50 billion dollars will go to the lifecycle cost of 188 jet bombers which will destroy our climate and kill mostly poor people
 - the money spent on just 6 of these bombers could bring clean water to all indigenous people in Canada
 - these groups are vigorously opposing this spending
- Civilian War Deaths:
 - For every 2 combatants killed, 1 to 2 civilians are also killed, according to Uppsala Conflict Data Program
 - a quarter to half of all fatalities in war are civilian
- Killing Civilians:
 - excerpt from John Pilger's film The War You Don't See
- Drain on Economy:
 - Each year \$2 trillion dollars spent worldwide on militarism, more than half of which is spent by the United States
 - If the United States spent \$50 billion annually of that money it could eliminate world hunger, starvation and provide clean water.

Langley City Council was requested to resolve to divest from weapons and fossil fuels and sign the Mayors for Peace Cities Appeal to endorse the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

At its November 23, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

“WHEREAS the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a landmark global agreement calling for national and local governments to abandon nuclear weapons of war;

WHEREAS the TPNW global agreement was adopted in 2017, and the Nobel Peace Prize Committee has acknowledged this initiative as providing the best pathway towards a world without nuclear weapons;

WHEREAS nuclear weapons threaten every nation's security and would cause catastrophic humanitarian and environmental harm;

WHEREAS cities are the main targets of nuclear weapons, municipalities have a special responsibility to their constituents to speak out against any role for nuclear weapons in national security doctrines;

WHEREAS municipal governments form a close and active link with their constituents and local social movements;

WHEREAS a national awareness is needed to advance the standard determined by the TPNW against nuclear weapon states and their military alliances with countries that have nuclear weapons;

WHEREAS the time has come to end decades of deadlock in disarmament and moving the world towards the elimination of nuclear weapons;

WHEREAS there is no winner in an exchange of nuclear weapons;

BE IT RESOLVED that Langley City support the Mayors for Peace Appeal and send a letter to the Government of Canada to break the unacceptable status quo regarding a tolerant nuclear weapons policy by taking decisive steps toward the global elimination of nuclear weapons of war.”

At its May 10, 2021 Regular Council meeting, Council received correspondence from World Beyond War - Vancouver Chapter requesting the City submit a resolution to the UBCM requesting all cities support the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

MOTION: Support for ICAN Cities Appeal

THAT City Council endorse the following resolution for submission to the 2021 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention for consideration of endorsement:

WHEREAS the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a landmark global agreement that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on July 7, 2017, signed into law on September 20, 2017, and enacted January 22, 2021 which calls on national governments to abandon nuclear weapons of war;

AND WHEREAS municipal governments form a close and active link with their constituents and local social movements and the lives of Canadian residents in municipalities may be impacted through any nuclear exchange with potential issues of global climate change, world food production and national or global economic order:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM support the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Cities Appeal and send urgent correspondence to the federal government asking that they take decisive steps toward the global elimination of nuclear weapons and sign and ratify the TPNW.