



**CITY OF RICHMOND**

**REPORT TO COMMITTEE**

**TO:** Planning Committee  
**FROM:** Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning  
**RE:** Report on Bill C-11, The Immigration and Refugee Act

*TO PLANNING - JUNE 19, 2001*  
**DATE:** May 17, 2001  
**FILE:** 0025-01

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Endorse the March 29, 2001 letter from the Office of the City Clerk, City of Vancouver reporting recommendations made to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration regarding Bill C-11, the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act; and
2. Send a letter of support for Vancouver's recommendations to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, with copies to Richmond's two federal members of parliament and the City of Vancouver.

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 1

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY</b>
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>

## STAFF REPORT

### ORIGIN

Bill C-11 was tabled on February 21, 2001 by Elinor Caplan, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Bill C-11 has passed second reading and has been sent to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration for review. If enacted, this bill would replace the current Immigration and Refugee Act (1976).

As outlined in a letter dated March 29, 2001 to Mayor and Council, the City of Vancouver presented recommendations advising amendments to Bill C-11 at a public hearing held in Vancouver on April 29, 2001 by the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration (**Appendix 1**). The proposed amendments call for consultation with municipal governments, in addition to provincial governments, regarding immigration goals, residency, distribution, integration, and policy and program development. They also request that the Federal Government provide resources and funding to municipalities for the delivery of programs and services to immigrants and refugees.

### ANALYSIS

According to the 1996 Census, Richmond has the highest percentage of immigrant population in the GVRD (48%), followed by Vancouver (45%). Immigrants are Richmond's primary source of population growth. Many are recent immigrants; 43% came to Richmond between 1991 and 1996. The top five source countries for recent immigrants are Hong Kong (44%), the People's Republic of China (17%), Taiwan (13%), the Philippines (7%) and India (2%).

Richmond adopted a Multiculturalism Policy in 1991. One of the City's objectives, as stated in the Official Community Plan (OCP), is to "recognize Richmond's Multicultural nature in the delivery of community services and promote harmonious intercultural relations" (*6.1 Diverse Population, Objective 4*). Richmond has supported agencies providing a range of programs and services to the immigrant population. Recently funded initiatives include \$150,000 of Casino Funds provided to the Richmond Chinese Community Society to establish a Safer Neighbourhoods Program. The Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society has received funding from the Grants Program. Other Richmond agencies provide services to various cultural groups, including Richmond Family Place and Family Services of Greater Vancouver.

As the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) stated in their submission of March 15, 2001, to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration,

*"...it is in local communities across the country that integration takes place. It is the programs and services in these communities that help ensure the success of Canada's national immigration policies. Many of the impacts of immigration occur at a local level, and municipal governments are most aware of how federal policy affects local communities."* (**Appendix 2**)

To recognize the role that municipalities play in integrating immigrants and refugees, the City of Vancouver has recommended that clauses be added to the bill that would acknowledge this key role by providing resources and funding for the delivery of programs and services, and reimbursing municipalities for services rendered. As conveyed at the recent conference of the mayors of Canada's five largest cities, cities require increased funding to deal with a range of issues, including immigrant integration (Vancouver Sun, May 26, 2001) (**Appendix 3**).

At the regional level, Greater Vancouver Regional District's Liveable Region Strategic Plan (LRSP) contains region-wide targets regarding households, population and employment growth as well as estimated growth capacities of individual municipalities. For implementation, LRSP calls for partnerships with all levels of government. As stated in Vancouver's recommendations, municipalities should be included in discussions with the Federal Government and provinces about immigration goals. They therefore recommend that the following sections be amended to include municipalities.

*3(1)(f), "to support...the attainment of immigration goals established by the Government of Canada in consultation with the provinces"*

*10(2), "The Minister must consult with the governments of the provinces respecting the number of foreign nationals in each class who will become permanent residents each year, their distribution in Canada taking into account regional economic and demographic requirements, and the measures to be undertaken to facilitate their integration into Canadian society"*

In addition to including municipalities in discussions regarding immigration goals, residency, distribution and integration, the City of Vancouver also recommended that municipalities be included in policy and program discussions regarding immigration and refugee protection. Therefore, municipalities should also be added to the following Section:

*10(1), "The Minister may consult with the governments of the provinces on immigration and refugee protection policies and programs, in order to facilitate co-operation and to take into consideration the effects that the implementation of this Act may have on the provinces".*

To date, support for Vancouver's recommendations has been received from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the City of Burnaby and the Township of Langley (**Appendices 4 - 6**). Prior to the City of Vancouver's presentation, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities made a submission to the Standing Committee on March 15, 2001, proposing similar recommendations (**Appendix 2**).

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

If implemented, the City of Vancouver's recommendations would result in municipalities receiving resources and funding for the delivery of programs and services to immigrants and refugees, and reimbursement for services rendered. Including municipalities in discussions about immigration goals, residency, and distribution would also allow local governments more control over related costs.

## CONCLUSION

Send a letter of support for Vancouver's recommendations to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, with copies to Richmond's two federal members of parliament and the City of Vancouver.



Lesley Sherlock  
Social Planner 2  
LS:cas





CITY OF VANCOUVER

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Date: March 19, 2001  
Author/Local:/B.Wong/6637

RTS No. 1982

CC File No. 111/6001

Council: March 27, 2001

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Director of Social Planning  
SUBJECT: Bill C-11, *The Immigration and Refugee Act*

**RECOMMENDATION**

***A) THAT Council recommend to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration the following amendments to Bill C-11:***

- a) to revise the Bill to make provision for the Government of Canada to consult with municipal governments, including the City of Vancouver, on relevant policy and program development concerning immigrants and refugees. More specifically, to include "municipalities" in Section 3(1)(f) and Section 3(3)(c) under "Objectives and Applications"; and also Section 10(1) and (2) under "Agreements";*
- b) to add to the Bill clauses recognizing that the City of Vancouver and other municipal governments have a key role to play in regard to supporting the integration of immigrants and refugees and that the Federal government would provide resources and funding for the delivery of programs and services to immigrants and refugees;*
- c) to add to the Bill that the Federal Government should reimburse municipal government for services rendered to immigrants and refugees;*

***B) THAT a Council member or designated staff be appointed to present the city's recommendations on Bill C-11 to the Federal Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration during their consultation in Vancouver in April 2001;***

***C) THAT Council forward copies of this report to the Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, GVRD municipalities, the Federation of***

***Canadian Municipalities and Union of British Columbia Municipalities for their information.***

***CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The City Manager submits this report for CONSIDERATION.

***COUNCIL POLICY***

There is no Council policy applicable to this report.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Bill C-11 and to seek Council's authorization to make a submission to the Federal Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration on the proposed Bill, which will be replacing the current Immigration and Refugee Act. Consultations on Bill C-11 have been scheduled for April 2, 2001 in Vancouver and the City of Vancouver has been invited to submit a brief.

**Background**

The following is a brief chronology of the federal review process on immigration and refugee legislation and Council's responses during that process.

**1997**

The federal process of reviewing immigration and refugee legislation began in the mid 90's. In 1997, the Minister of Immigration released the report "**Not Just Numbers: A Canadian Framework For Future Immigration**" with 172 recommendations. In May 1998, Council's Special Advisory Committee on Cultural Communities reviewed and commented on that report and, with Council's approval, made a submission to the Federal Legislative Review Secretariat. (Appendix A - on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**1999**

In March 1999, Immigration Minister Lucienne Robillard released a white paper titled "**Building on a Strong Foundation For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century: New Directions for Immigration and Refugee Policy and Legislation**". The document stated that: "Citizenship and Immigration Canada currently benefits from valuable partnerships at the local, regional, national and international levels with a wide range of stakeholders...these include municipalities...among others... Municipalities will continue to be included in stakeholder consultations where appropriate..."

Soon after the release of the white paper, Council's Special Advisory Committee on Cultural Communities reviewed and made comments on the document and recommended that Council make a submission to the Minister with the City's recommendations. ( See Appendix B - on file in the City Clerk's Office)

**2000**

On April 6, 2000, the Honourable Elinor Caplan, Minister of Citizenship and

Immigration, tabled **Bill C-31**, The Immigration and Refugee Act, in the House of Commons. In August, the City asked to make submission to the Standing Committee on Bill C-31. The House considered the Bill but was unable to pass it as Parliament was dissolved due to the Federal Election.

## 2001

On February 21, 2001, Elinor Caplan, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, tabled **Bill C-11**, the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, which has now replaced Bill C-31. Bill C-11 has passed second reading and has been sent to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration for review. The Bill, if enacted, would replace the current Immigration and Refugee Act which is dated from 1976.

Public hearings in Vancouver have been scheduled April 2 and the City of Vancouver has been invited to submit a brief.

## Discussion

The City of Vancouver is the primary reception centre for immigrants and refugees in the western region of Canada. According to the 1996 census, immigrants and refugees comprise 44.9 % of the City's total population, making Vancouver the city with the second highest concentration of immigrants in Canada. Regionally, between 1986 and 1998, a total of 283,924 immigrants settled in the Lower Mainland, and that number accounted for 77% of total immigrant landings in BC during the same period.

The profile of immigrants who settled in Vancouver in the late '80's and early '90's is very different from that prior to 1986. During mid '80's and the '90's, almost two thirds of the immigrants came from regions such as South Asia and South-East Asia. The shift in source countries has greatly changed the profile of ethnic composition in the city. The new immigrants also speak a multitude of languages . One in two immigrants landed in BC between 1986 and 1996 reported having no or limited ability to communicate in English. The diversity in this changing population is one of the key challenges faced by the City in ensuring its services and programs are relevant and accessible to newcomers.

In the 1980's and 90's, the City undertook different initiatives in response to needs of our culturally diverse communities. Civic institutions such as the Hastings Institute and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office are pioneers in providing leadership in the area of training and policy development in addressing diverse service needs. In 1995, the City's adopted a Diversity Communications Strategy and launched its Multilingual Phonenumber Services in five languages in response to identified language needs among the immigrant communities. Currently, the City is developing a Citywide Translation and Interpretation Policy which requires potentially significant implementation resources.

In addition, City Council has allocated significant funding, through the Community Services Grants program, to support agencies which deliver programs and services to the diverse populations, including services for immigrant youths, seniors, and families and children. The purpose of the city funding is mostly to bridge service gaps to those groups which do not receive support from other levels of government, and to strengthen the capacity of immigrant communities with the goal of successful social and economic integration in the community at large.

## Bill C-11

The proposed Bill C-11 replaces Bill C-31, which was introduced in 2000 prior to the Fall's election. If passed, Bill C-11 will replace the current Immigration and Refugee Act, dated 1976. Bill C-11 is available on the website: [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

Some highlights from the Bill include:

### For Immigrants:

- introducing a number of key provisions designed to expand the admission of workers with the skills that are most needed in Canada
- selection of skilled workers focused less on occupation than flexible and transferable skills
- provisions within the bill that reinforce the government's commitment to gender equality
- modernize the definition of "family" to include common-law and same sex partners including "parents" in the definition of family class within the Act
- incorporating the best interests of the **child** in appropriate provisions of the Act
- strengthening sponsorship obligations

### For Refugees:

- pursuing agreements with NGOs to locate, identify, refer and pre-screen refugee applications in areas where refugees are most in need of protection
- ensuring that people in urgent need of protection are brought to Canada within days
- processing overseas families as a unit, including extended families of refugees wherever possible
- for inland refugees, referral to Immigrant and Refugee Board within 3 working days
- creating a new offence for human trafficking; raising the penalty to life in prison for migrant smuggling and trafficking
- eliminating appeals to the Immigration Appeal Division for serious criminals, people who present security risks, members of criminal organizations and war criminals
- extending the period after which a new claim can be made from 90 days to 6 months, to avoid "revolving door" situations

Overall, Bill C-11 proposes timely and significant changes to the current immigration and refugee legislation. It has made amendments to Bill C-31 as a result of input from the NGO sector, such as the inclusion of "parents" as part of family class, and the differentiation of "permanent resident" from "foreign nationals". It has taken into account the dynamics and challenges of global migration needs and proposed new ways to streamline Canada's refugee determination and protection system.

### City's Recommendations

A stated objective of the current Immigration Act is co-operation between the Government of Canada and other levels of government. Bill C-11 has deleted this objective and requires the Minister to consult only with provinces and other stakeholders. With the increasing expectations that cities need to support and deliver services to all residents including immigrants and refugees, and with the high concentration of immigrants and refugees in large urban centres like Vancouver, it is



imperative that the new Act recognise the role of, and have provisions for, local government input in addressing immigrant and refugee-related issues and the cost pressures placed on local government to meet the increased demand for services.

This issue was highlighted in a recent federal report commissioned by the Department of Canadian Heritage. ("Cultural Policy and Cultural Diversity in Canada", Greg Baeker, August 2000). The report stated that "immigrants enter Canadian society at the level of localities. It is here that the range of settlement and adjustment programs is delivered, and where essential social services are made available. A greater understanding of the effects of nationally defined policies at the local level is needed". The report further pointed out that "...over the past decade deficit-driven senior levels of government have been "downloading" responsibilities- the federal government to the provinces, and in turn the provinces to municipalities - without the transfer of funds, or powers of taxation necessary to assume these additional responsibilities".

On March 15, 2001, FCM made a submission to the Standing Committee regarding Bill C-11 with 2 recommendations: 1) that the Act needs to be amended to include provisions for consulting municipal governments on immigration and refugee issues; and 2) that the Federal Government should reimburse municipal governments for services provided to immigrants and refugees living in the cities.

Staff concur with FCM's recommendations and propose that Council adopt similar recommendations in our submission to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration.

### Conclusions

Bill C-11 is an important and modern legislation which will have profound impact on how Canada is going to choose her future citizenry from around the world amidst a rapidly changing global environment. Local governments are the closest to the people and provide diverse services which meet the needs of newcomers, regardless of their culture, race, or language. The continued partnership and collaboration among all levels of government, whether through established channel of consultation, or the sharing of costs in developing responsive services and programs for our newcomers, are therefore essential to the well-being of our citizens. Bill C-11 should reflect this need for collaboration and working together by the inclusion of municipalities as one of its principal stakeholder groups and the allocation of resources to fund needed services.

\* \* \* \* \*

---

### MEETING AGENDA

Comments or questions? You can send us [email](#).

**CITY HOMEPAGE**

**GET IN TOUCH**

**COMMUNITIES**

**SEARCH**

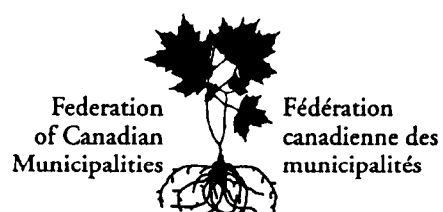
(c) 1998 City of Vancouver

270

## Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee  
on Citizenship and Immigration

Bill C-11, *The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*



March 15, 2001

March 15, 2001

Chair and Members of the Standing  
Committee on Citizenship and Immigration  
House of Commons  
180 Wellington Street, Room 631  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration,

**RE: Bill C-11 and Consultation with Municipal Governments**

**Introduction**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) would like to thank you for inviting us to submit our views on Bill C-11, *The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Since 1901, FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments, dedicated to improving the quality of life in all communities by promoting strong, effective and accountable government.

FCM wishes to inform you of its concerns regarding this Bill, specifically the need for consultation with municipal governments and adequate resources to appropriately fund services to meet newcomers' needs.

**Background**

Immigration enriches our social and cultural life, supplements our declining workforce, brings financial capital, and creates jobs. However, immigrants and refugees also are less likely to be employed and have significantly lower earnings than people born in Canada. Incidents of hate-motivated crimes against racial minorities and other victims are on the rise, as reported by the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, a national Jewish organization, and the Toronto Police. In addition, federal and provincial downsizing and offloading have created critical pressures on the financial capacity of our cities to meet the increased demand for services. These public service cutbacks impact negatively on the socially disadvantaged. They have a disproportionately adverse impact upon members of cities' immigrant communities.

The 1996 Census showed that 85 percent of all immigrants lived in Canada's 25 Census Metropolitan areas (CMAs), with nearly three-quarters living in just three cities: Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. In 1999, most immigrants continued to settle in these centres: Toronto – 44 percent; Vancouver – 15 percent; and Montreal – 12 percent. Additionally, cities such as Kitchener-Waterloo and Hamilton in Ontario, receive a high proportion of “secondary migrants”: immigrants, refugees and refugee claimants migrating from initial destinations. These cities welcome newcomers to their communities but struggle to meet the increased demand for services.

Still other cities and towns, such as Winnipeg, Manitoba, are faced with a declining population. They need to attract immigrants in order to strengthen a shrinking labour force and stimulate economic development. FCM resolutions have called on the federal government to encourage immigrant settlement in smaller cities and towns to ensure that the benefits of immigration flow to all parts of Canada.

Whether dealing with the effects of immigration, or lack thereof, the social and economic impact on Canada's major cities and secondary migration centres, indeed, most municipalities, is enormous. It is therefore central to any discussion of immigration and refugee policy.

### **Consultation with Municipal Government**

Bill C-11 is silent on consultation and collaboration with municipalities. A stated objective of the current Immigration Act is cooperation between the Government of Canada and other orders of government. Bill C-11 has deleted this objective and requires the Minister to consult only with provinces regarding economic and demographic requirements for the distribution of immigrants and measures to facilitate integration.

However, it is in local communities across the country that integration takes place. It is the programs and services in these communities that help ensure the success of Canada's national immigration policies. Many of the impacts of immigration occur at a local level, and municipal governments are most aware of how federal policy affects local communities.

There is a need for all orders of government to work cooperatively with each other, and with the community and private sectors, toward setting and achieving common goals in immigration and refugee policies and programs.

The absence of federal-provincial agreements, the decrease in federal transfer payments and provincial offloading to municipalities has meant that municipal governments have had to shoulder greater responsibility, including financial responsibility, in immigration and refugee matters. Therefore, municipal

governments should be at the table with the federal and provincial governments when decisions are made on immigration and refugee policies and programs that will result in significant expenditures by municipal governments.

The need for municipalities to be directly consulted is made all the more important because many details of the changes to the immigration act will be stipulated in regulations rather than the statute. Section 38, for instance, addresses the protection of health and safety of Canadians and the grounds for health inadmissibility. Municipal governments need to be actively involved in developing the regulations for this section. It is our view that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration should immediately establish a process to include the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and representative municipalities as full participants in the development of the regulations.

Bill C-11 should also be amended to include municipalities in the sections, "Objectives and Application" and "Consultations with the Provinces" (Section 3(1)(c) and (f); Section 3(3)(c); and Section 10(1) and (2)) to make provision for the Government of Canada to consult directly with municipal governments on relevant policy and program issues.

### **Federal Funding for Costs Incurred by Municipal Governments**

Bill C-11 does not appear to recognize the costs borne by many, if not all municipal governments for providing services such as public health, emergency shelter and social assistance to refugee claimants, as well as social assistance to immigrants because of sponsorship breakdown. The Government of Canada should share these costs.

Federal/provincial ambiguity regarding many provinces' role in immigration combined with provincial offloading has affected municipal governments' ability to support the programs and services necessary to newcomers. In addition, the change from the Canada Assistance Plan to the Canada Health and Social Transfer, and the accompanying decrease in federal transfers to provinces, has resulted in cuts to municipal funding by the provinces. This places critical pressures on the financial capacity of our cities to meet the increased demand for services.

Federal policy limits refugee claimants' access to services. This, in effect, offloads service needs to municipal governments and their community organizations. Bill C-11 should provide for the Government of Canada to reimburse municipal governments for public health expenditures, social assistance and hostel costs provided to refugees, and social assistance provided to immigrants because of sponsorship breakdown. Municipal governments of communities that are centres of secondary migration should also be reimbursed for the settlement costs of immigrants and refugees.

Further, the Government of Canada should explicitly address and support federal-provincial agreements such as those related to public health, social assistance and hostel costs for newcomers.

A faster refugee determination system proposed by Bill C-11 will provide municipal governments with some relief, but the Federal government must allocate adequate resources to appropriately fund services to meet newcomers' needs.

### **The Social and Economic Integration of Immigrants and Refugees**

The Federal Government should support the funding of programs and initiatives for the social and economic well being of immigrants and refugees and their successful integration, recognizing that integration involves mutual obligations of newcomers and Canadian society.

Examples of programs and initiatives that will facilitate settlement and integration include: public awareness and education of the benefits of immigration; English as a Second Language training; access to schooling for newcomer children; accessible and equitable settlement services; affordable housing strategies; skills upgrading for foreign-trained workers; and, collaboration with provincial professional regulatory bodies and technical associations to accelerate the recognition and certification of foreign credentials.

The Government of Canada's Throne Speech promised to secure better recognition of the foreign credentials held by new Canadians. The federal government should play a more active role in facilitating the economic integration of immigrants and refugees, specifically by consulting with professional and technical associations, provincial and territorial governments, and municipal governments to identify measures to accelerate the professional recognition and skills upgrading of foreign-trained workers. Also, the Government of Canada should increase funding and support to enhance skills upgrading and employment-related language training programs for newcomers.

### **Conclusion**

All orders of government have an interest and play a role in immigration and refugee matters. All governments must develop strategies to combat racism, create a positive climate of welcome to newcomers, and foster a sense of shared values and community across ethnic and racial groups. Bill C-11 must be seen to reflect this shared commitment to Canadian core values, democratic principles and human rights standards.

We are asking the Government of Canada to amend Bill C-11 to provide for consultation and collaboration with municipal government. We are asking the

Government of Canada to share the costs borne by municipal governments in providing services such as public health, emergency shelter and social assistance to refugee claimants, refugees and immigrants. And finally, we are asking the Government of Canada to support the funding of programs and initiatives for the social and economic well being of immigrants and refugees and their successful integration into Canadian society.

Many of the impacts of immigration occur at a local level and it is community based programs and initiatives that ensure the success of our national immigration policies. Funding should reflect this reality. The changes we have suggested to Bill C-11 will help ensure that the goal of facilitating the successful settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees in Canada is achieved.

# Give us more power, big-city mayors say

## Vancouver mayor joins others in calling for new deal for cities

By FRANCES BULA

WINNIPEG - It's time for a new deal for Canadian cities. The tax money they generate keeps the country running, and cities need to get more control of that so they can grow and generate even more benefits for Canada.

That was the message at the end of a first-ever conference of the mayors of Canada's five largest cities.

The two-day meeting ended with the mayors planning a strategy to convince provincial and federal governments that it's in their own best interests to hand over more responsibility and money to cities.

Cities require more money to deal with transportation, housing, inner-city problems, waterfront development, immigrant integration, and other urban issues.

The mayors believe that senior-level politicians have no choice but to listen, especially those at the federal level.

"They know they'll eventually

wear it if Canadian cities start to fail," said Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray, who was a co-organizer of the conference with prominent urbanist Jane Jacobs.

"Toronto alone puts \$6 billion in tax money into the country that's used for social programs and health care. If the economic engines of cities stall, it turns off the taxation tap for provincial and federal governments."

Vancouver is already providing an example of ways that cities can act to solve local problems.

Mayor Philip Owen said Vancouver's recent move to develop its own drug strategy — even though there's very little the city controls directly to put the strategy in place — shows that cities are ready and able to develop their own policies. "But we need some control over our destiny ... if we're going to take on more and more responsibility."

The conference is part of a growing move to revolutionize the way Canadians think about the place of cities in their country.



VANCOUVER SUN FILES

Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman (left) chose to slam the federal government, departing from the strategy of the other mayors, including Winnipeg's Glen Murray (right).

Historically, Canada has seen its wealth as coming primarily from vast resources, with cities used primarily as distribution points.

Now, the mayors say, the cities are the incubators of industries that operate in the global market and they need to be operated dif-

ferently. Cities get more than half their money from property taxes, a significant and growing chunk from user fees, and a small amount from provincial grants.

At the conference, the mayors exchanged information about the small steps some of them are making to gain access to other

forms of revenue to pay for the kinds of complex urban programs they have to run.

Calgary, for instance, gets five cents a litre from the provincial gas tax. That gives the city \$90 million a year to put into its transportation system.

Quebec has passed over a part of driver registration fees to Montreal, giving it \$47 million a year in revenue.

Winnipeg and Vancouver have both benefited from special agreements among the three levels of government to tackle inner-city problems of drugs and decline.

Throughout the two-day conference, Jacobs urged the mayors to stop whining about how much they're suffering from offloading. She said that's part of the old way of thinking, which puts cities in the position of begging for money.

"I said, 'Be glad to have the responsibility. Don't be apologetic about cities. Realize the resources they need are a well-earned right. It's not charity,'" said the blunt 85-year-old, who has been a prominent advocate of cities for 50 years.

Her more positive and

assertive approach struck a chord with most of the mayors, who concluded the conference Friday by accentuating the strength of cities and the ways they have already begun to work out some new deals with their provincial and federal counterparts.

Only Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman continued to blast the provincial and federal governments for passing on social housing to the city, sticking it with a \$250-million-a-year bill.

He launched the sharpest attacks, saying it will be a difficult job to convince other levels of government to change their relationship with cities. "They've got it, they're holding onto it, they're refusing outright to part with it."

Calgary Mayor Al Duerr said cities need to have a common understanding with the provincial and federal governments about how to connect tax revenues to programs.

The next step is a conference in Vancouver in January among the same mayors, after a working group has done some research on best practices across the country and the benefits of reinvesting in cities.

277



UNION OF  
BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPALITIES

April 24, 2001

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
 Copied to: Mayor, City Manager &  
 Ref'd To: B. Wong BY: B. Wong  
 RECEIVED  
 MAY 4 2001  
 File No. ....

COUNCILLORS  
RECEIVED  
MAY 11 2001

Suite 15  
10551 Shellbridge Way  
Richmond  
British Columbia  
Canada V6X 2W9  
(604) 270-8226  
Fax (604) 270-9316  
Email: ubcm@civicnet.gov.bc.ca

PRESIDENT  
DIRECTOR  
JIM ABRAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
RICHARD TAYLOR

The Honourable Elinor Caplan  
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration  
Jean Edmonds Tower South, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Laurier Street West  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 1L1

OFFICES

Dear Minister:

The Union of BC Municipalities is an association that represents the interests of all 182 local governments in the province of British Columbia.

Recently our 19 member Executive met at their quarterly meeting. During that meeting a report was received from the City of Vancouver on Bill C-11, *The Immigration and Refugee Act*. As local governments, we are the direct hosts to the thousands of refugees and immigrants that enter Canada each year. It is on this basis we support the City of Vancouver and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in their efforts to revise Bill C-11 to:

- include provisions for consulting local governments on immigration and refugee issues; and
- request that the federal government reimburse local governments for services provided to immigrants and refugees living in their communities.

On behalf of all local governments in BC, I would encourage you to consider our request.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Abram  
President

cc: Councillor Lynne Kennedy, City of Vancouver

130/05/C-ria





SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Ref'd to: <i>SW</i>	By: .....
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
APR 27 2001	
File No. ....	.....

CITY OF BURNABY  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DOUGLAS P. DRUMMOND  
MAYOR

April 11, 2001

Mayor and Council  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V5H 4G8

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Bill C-11, The Immigration and Refugee Act**

Burnaby City Council at the Open Council meeting held on April 09, 2001 received your correspondence regarding proposed amendments to Bill C-11, the Immigration and Refugee Act. I am pleased to advise of Burnaby Council's unanimous support for the amendments as proposed by Vancouver City Council.

However, it has just been learned that all time slots at the Federal Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigrations consultation have been booked and the only opportunity for the City of Burnaby to appear in support of the proposed amendments would be if another speaker cancelled.

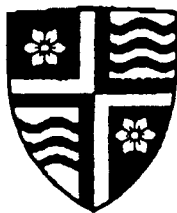
Therefore, it would be appreciated if the City of Vancouver, in its presentation to the Federal Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, would convey the City of Burnaby's support for Vancouver's, position.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Drummond  
MAYOR

Circulated for information to the Mayor City Manager  
Councillors and Baldwin Wong - Multicultural Community  
Planner - ck/File # 111 - April 27, 2001 -  
Writer Acknowledged.

# Township of Langley



Est. 1873

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Ref'd To: <i>SW</i>	By: .....
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
MAY 1 2001	
File No. ....	.....

April 11, 2001

File No. 0142-000

Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration  
Jean Edmonds Tower South  
365 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

Attention E. Caplan, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

Re: **Bill C-11, The Immigration and Refugee Act**

Please be advised that at its Regular Meeting of April 9, 2001, Township of Langley Council unanimously passed the following motion:

"That Council recommend to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration the following amendments to Bill C-11:

1. to revise the Bill to make provision for the Government of Canada to consult with municipal governments, including the Township of Langley, on relevant policy and program development concerning immigrants and refugees. More specifically, to include "municipalities" in Section 3(1)(f) and Section 3(3)(c) under "Objectives and Applications", and also Section 10(1) and (2) under "Agreements";
2. to add to the Bill clauses recognizing that the Township of Langley and other municipal governments have a key role to play in regard to supporting the integration of immigrants and refugees and that the Federal government would provide resources and funding for the delivery of programs and services to immigrants and refugees;
3. to add to the Bill that the Federal Government should reimburse municipal government for services rendered to immigrants and refugees."

If you have any questions you may contact the undersigned at 533-6003.

Yours truly,

Alberto S. De Foa, Ph.D. Law  
MANAGER OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

\\corpfile\bdc\tolfiles\data\clerk\corr 2001\council\april9\fedminofcitizenshipandimmigration.doc

- B) THAT a Council member or designated staff be appointed to present the city's recommendations on Bill C-11 to the Federal Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration during their consultation in Vancouver in April 2001.
- C) THAT Council forward copies of this report to the Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, GVRD municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Union of British Columbia Municipalities for their information.

Yours truly,



Charlene K. Imai  
Meeting Coordinator

Att.