



Regular Council

Monday, February 10, 2020

Place: Council Chambers  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie  
Councillor Chak Au  
Councillor Carol Day  
Councillor Kelly Greene  
Councillor Alexa Loo  
Councillor Bill McNulty  
Councillor Linda McPhail  
Councillor Harold Steves  
Councillor Michael Wolfe

Corporate Officer – Claudia Jesson

Call to Order: Mayor Brodie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

RES NO. ITEM

MINUTES

R20/3-1 1. It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on January 27, 2020,  
be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS**

R20/3-2

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the recommendation for Item No. 9 - 2020 Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grants, be revised to the following:*

*That the 2020 Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grants, less the proposed grant to KidSport, be awarded for the recommended amounts and funding cycles, and cheques disbursed for a total of \$88,828.32 (with the remaining funds divided evenly between the Hamilton Community Association and the Richmond City Centre Community Association - \$364.16 each), as identified in Attachment 1 of the staff report titled "2020 Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grants," dated January 2, 2020, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services; and*

- (2) *That the recommendation for Item No. 21 - 2020 Parks, Recreation And Community Events Grants - Kidsport, be revised to the following:*

(1) *That \$19,000 of the recommended grant of \$24,000 to KidSport, as referenced in the staff report titled "2020 Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grants", dated January 2, 2020, from Director, Recreation and Sport Services, be awarded and a cheque disbursed; and*

(2) *That \$5,000 be held back and allocated to sports groups not recognized by KidSport and that this be administered by staff.*

**CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

R20/3-3

2. It was moved and seconded

*That Council resolve into Committee of the Whole to hear delegations on agenda items (7:02 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

2.



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

3. Delegations from the floor on Agenda items.

Item No. 18 – Birth Tourism

Karina Reid, Richmond resident, expressed concerns with regard to the potentially negative impacts to vulnerable individuals that may arise if legislation to address birth tourism is introduced.

Item No. 18 – Birth Tourism

Keefer Pelech, Richmond resident, spoke on policies related to birthright citizenship and expressed that legislation to restrict birth tourism may negatively impact vulnerable individuals and raise barriers to social services.

Item No. 18 – Birth Tourism

Yousif Samarrai, Richmond resident, referred to his submission (copy on-file, City Clerk's Office), and spoke on the history of birthright citizenship and expressed concern with regard to the negative impact of birth tourism activities in Richmond. He noted that the city accounts for a significant portion of foreign births in the province and that Canada can adopt similar initiatives introduced by other Commonwealth countries, with provisions to protect vulnerable individuals, to curb birth tourism activities.

Item No. 18 – Birth Tourism

Richard Kurland, an immigration lawyer and policy analyst, referenced his submission (copy on-file, City Clerk's Office) and spoke on statistical data related to annual births to non-residents of Canada and the relationship to the number of temporary residents and workers in Canada. He suggested policy amendments to Federal immigration and taxation policies that Canada could implement to restrict birth tourism activities.

Item No. 18 – Birth Tourism

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (copy on-file, City Clerk's Office), Kerry Starchuk, Richmond resident, expressed concern with regard to the negative impact of birth tourism activities on local social services in Richmond and in other cities in Canada. She added that she has observed suspicious activity in the community and spoke on options to limit operations of birth tourism activities.



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

Item No. 18 – Birth Tourism

Cynthia Rautio, Richmond resident, spoke on suspected birth tourism businesses operating in Richmond and expressed that provisions can be adopted to amend citizenship policies that do not impact vulnerable individuals.

Item No. 18 – Birth Tourism

Bo Tanner, Richmond resident, spoke on the negative impacts of birth tourism activities in Richmond and commented on options to target suspicious businesses by enforcing the City’s business license bylaws.

Item No. 16 – Application by EcoWaste Industries Ltd. for an Agricultural Land Reserve Non Farm Use for the Lands Bounded by the Granville Avenue, No. 7 Road, Blundell Road and Savage Road Allowances

Myles Lamont, wildlife biologist, spoke on the application by EcoWaste Industries Inc., and expressed concern with regard to the potential impact to sandhill crane habitat. He noted that the sandhill crane population is critically low in the region and that the local sandhill cranes have been injured by golf activities in the area. He suggested that the City work with the applicant to protect sandhill crane habitat.

- R20/3-4      4.    It was moved and seconded  
*That Committee rise and report (7:51 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- R20/3-5      5.    It was moved and seconded  
*That Items No. 6 through No. 17 be adopted by general consent.*

**CARRIED**



**Regular Council  
Monday, February 10, 2020**

**6. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

*That the minutes of:*

- (1) the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting held on January 28, 2020;*
  - (2) the General Purposes Committee meeting held on February 3, 2020; and*
  - (3) the Planning Committee meeting held on February 4, 2020;*
- be received for information.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**7. 2020 COMMUNITY MURAL PROGRAM PROJECTS**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-255) (REDMS No. 6352114 v. 3; 6211233; 6171284; 6352823)

*That the 2020 Community Mural Program projects as presented in the staff report titled “2020 Community Mural Program Projects” dated December 11, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**8. 2020 ARTS AND CULTURE GRANT PROGRAM**

(File Ref. No. 03-1085-01) (REDMS No. 6360660 v. 4; 6359038; 6359034)

*That the 2020 Arts and Culture Grants, less the proposed grant to the Caravan Stage Society, be awarded for the recommended amounts and cheques disbursed for a total of \$114,315, as identified in Attachment 1 of the staff report titled “2020 Arts and Culture Grant Program” dated December 17, 2019 from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**9. 2020 PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS**  
(File Ref. No. 03-1085-01) (REDMS No. 6360043 v. 12; 6046994; 6360113; 6360122)

*That the 2020 Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grants, less the proposed grant to KidSport, be awarded for the recommended amounts and funding cycles, and cheques disbursed for a total of \$88,828.32 (with the remaining funds divided evenly between the Hamilton Community Association and the Richmond City Centre Community Association - \$364.16 each), as identified in Attachment 1 of the staff report titled "2020 Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grants," dated January 2, 2020, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**10. 2020 HEALTH, SOCIAL AND SAFETY GRANTS**  
(File Ref. No. 03-1085-01) (REDMS No. 6367626 v. 3; 6367801; 6211019)

*That the 2020 Health, Social and Safety Grants be awarded for the recommended amounts and funding cycles, and cheques be disbursed for a total of \$593,133 as per the staff report titled "2020 Health, Social and Safety Grants", dated December 19, 2019, from the Director, Community Social Development.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**11. 2020 CHILD CARE GRANTS**  
(File Ref. No. 03-1085-01) (REDMS No. 6356676 v. 4; 6353944; 6161414; 6366741)

*That, as per the staff report titled "2020 Child Care Grants," dated December 11, 2019, from the Director, Community Social Development:*

- (1) The Child Care Capital Grants be awarded for the recommended amounts and cheques be disbursed for a total of \$50,000; and*
- (2) The Child Care Professional and Program Development Grant be awarded for the recommended amount and a cheque be disbursed for a total of \$4,000.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**12. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE BYLAW IN RELATION TO AGENDA PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

(File Ref. No. 12-8060-20-010124) (REDMS No. 6367198; 6367188)

*That Council Procedure Bylaw No. 7560, Amendment Bylaw No. 10124, which introduces amendments relating to agenda preparation and distribution, be introduced and given first, second and third readings.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**13. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER**

(File Ref. No. 05-1400-01) (REDMS No. 6386303)

*That Matthew O'Halloran, Manager, Legislative Services, be appointed as an Acting Corporate Officer for the purposes of carrying out statutory duties prescribed in section 148 of the Community Charter in the absence of, or as directed by, Claudia Jesson, Director, City Clerk's Office (Corporate Officer).*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**14. RICHMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RCSAC) 2019 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2020 WORK PLAN**

(File Ref. No. 01-0100-30-RCSA1-01) (REDMS No. 6368161 v. 3; 6351799; 6351785; 6370329; 5276844)

*That the staff report titled "Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan", dated December 17, 2019, from the Director, Community Social Development, be approved.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**15. CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2020 WORK PROGRAM**

(File Ref. No. 07-3070-01; 01-0100-30-CCDE1-01) (REDMS No. 6355766 v. 2; 6355671; 6355669)

*That the Child Care Development Advisory Committee's 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Program, as outlined in the staff report titled, "Child Care Development Advisory Committee 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Program," dated January 3, 2020, from the Director, Community Social Development, be approved.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

7.



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**16. APPLICATION BY ECOWASTE INDUSTRIES LTD. FOR AN AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE NON FARM USE FOR THE LANDS BOUNDED BY THE GRANVILLE AVENUE, NO. 7 ROAD, BLUNDELL ROAD AND SAVAGE ROAD ALLOWANCES**

(File Ref. No. AG 19-863866; AG 14-654361) (REDMS No. 6216673; 6384921)

*That the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Non-Farm Use Application (AG 19-863866) by Ecowaste Industries Ltd. to revise the previously approved ALR Non-Farm Use Application (AG 14-654361) in order to:*

- (a) replace the operator of one of the previously approved materials recovery facilities and increase the size from 1.3 ha to 3.3 ha and processing capability of the facility;*
- (b) add two new materials recovery facilities to the four facilities previously approved; and*
- (c) add 20 years to the previously approved term to allow landfill activities to continue until 2055;*

*on the lots bounded by the Granville Avenue, No. 7 Road, Blundell Road and Savage Road allowances be endorsed and forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**17. APPLICATION BY DA ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS FOR A TEMPORARY COMMERCIAL USE PERMIT AT 8991 CHARLES STREET**

(File Ref. No. TU 20-891050) (REDMS No. 6389247)

*That the application by DA Architects & Planners for a Temporary Commercial Use Permit for the property at 8991 Charles Street be considered at Public Hearing to be held March 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Richmond City Hall, and that the following recommendation be forwarded to that meeting for consideration:*





**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

*“That a Temporary Commercial Use Permit be issued to DA Architects & Planners for property at 8991 Charles Street to allow “Vehicle Rental, Convenience” limited to the storage of rental vehicles only with no associated buildings and no public access as a site specific additional use for a period of three years.”*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE  
CONSENT AGENDA**

\*\*\*\*\*

**NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair

**18. BIRTH TOURISM**

(File Ref. No. 08-4430-03-12) (REDMS No. 6386271)

Information and newspaper articles on birth tourism was distributed (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 1).

R20/3-6

It was moved and seconded

*That Richmond City Council write letters to the Federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the Prime Minister, Richmond Members of Parliament, the Premier, the BC Minister of Health, the BC Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Richmond Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Vancouver Coastal Health requesting immediate permanent changes to the Canadian immigration laws which would end automatic Canadian citizenship being bestowed on babies born in Canada to non-resident parents who are not citizens of Canada.*



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued with regard to:

- the negative impact of birth tourism activities on community services;
- policies adopted by Commonwealth countries to restrict birth tourism;
- potential strategies to curb birth tourism activities in Richmond without negatively affecting vulnerable individuals;
- enforcement of unlicensed businesses and illegal rental units; and
- advocating senior levels of government and regional health authorities to amend policies related to citizenship and taxes to restrict birth tourism activities.

In reply to queries to Council, staff noted that suspected unlicensed businesses can be investigated and non-compliant businesses will be ticketed. Staff added that some business licences are granted by senior levels of government and that business licenses can only be issued for legal activities.

It was noted that a memorandum titled “Regulatory Options Related to Birth Tourism”, dated February 4, 2020, from the Manager Business Licence and Bylaws, was distributed to Council (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 2).

A motion to include citizenship policy provisions for stateless and vulnerable children was introduced, but failed to receive a seconder.

The question on the main motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllrs. Greene, Loo and Wolfe opposed.



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**19. KAIWO MARU TALL SHIP RECRUITMENT – PROPOSED DELEGATION TO JAPAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SEA TRAINING**

(File Ref. No. 11-7400-20-STSH1) (REDMS No. 6392279 v. 10)

R20/3-7

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That a delegation comprising of Councillors Bill McNulty and Harold Steves be sent to Japan in April 2020 to pursue recruitment of the Kaiwo Maru as outlined in the staff report titled “Kaiwo Maru Tall Ship Recruitment – Proposed Delegation to Japan National Institute for Sea Training,” dated January 22, 2020, from the Director, Parks Services; and*
- (2) *That delegation travel costs of up to \$40,000 be funded from the Council Contingency account.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued with regard to (i) the importance of meeting with Japanese officials to recruit the *Kaiwo Maru*, (ii) revising the Richmond Maritime Festival from an annual event to an event held every few years, (iii) utilizing a translator from Japan, (iv) options to utilize electronic means of communication with Japanese officials to recruit the *Kaiwo Maru*, (v) the dolphin hunting practices in Japan, and (vi) seeking assistance from the Consul General of Japan to recruit the *Kaiwo Maru*.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllrs. Au, Greene and Wolfe opposed.

**20. 2020 ARTS AND CULTURE GRANT PROGRAM – CARAVAN STAGE SOCIETY**

(File Ref. No. 03-1085-01) (REDMS No. 6360660 v. 4; 6359038; 6359034)

In accordance with Section 100 of the *Community Charter*, Cllr. McPhail declared to be in a conflict of interest as her husband has business interests in the Caravan Stage Society, and Cllr. McPhail left the meeting – 9:00 p.m.



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

R20/3-8

It was moved and seconded

*That the grant to the Caravan Stage Society be awarded for the recommended amount and cheque disbursed for a total of \$2,500, as identified in Attachment 1 of the staff report titled “2020 Arts and Culture Grant Program” dated December 17, 2019 from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services.*

**CARRIED**

Cllr. McPhail returned to the meeting – 9:01 p.m.

**21. 2020 PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS  
- KIDSPORT**

(File Ref. No. 03-1085-01) (REDMS No. 6360043 v. 12; 6046994; 6360113; 6360122)

In accordance with Section 100 of the *Community Charter*, Cllr. Loo declared to be in a conflict of interest as she is involved in KidSport fundraising activities, and Cllr. Loo left the meeting – 9:02 p.m.

R20/3-9

It was moved and seconded

*(1) That \$19,000 of the recommended grant of \$24,000 to KidSport, as referenced in the staff report titled “2020 Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grants”, dated January 2, 2020, from Director, Recreation and Sport Services, be awarded and a cheque disbursed; and*

*(2) That \$5,000 be held back and allocated to sports groups not recognized by KidSport and that this be administered by staff.*

**CARRIED**

Cllr. Loo returned to the meeting – 9:03 p.m.



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Linda McPhail, Chair

**22. COUNCIL REFERRAL ON SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR REZONING AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – REVISED REPORT**

(File Ref. No. 08-4100-01; 12-8060-20-010125/010004/010005) (REDMS No. 6361217; 6118110; 6122871; 6165828; 6365497; 6366222; 6369058)

R20/3-10

It was moved and seconded

- (1) That Richmond Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 9000, Amendment Bylaw 10125, introducing Official Community Plan (OCP) signs, be introduced and given first reading;*
- (2) That Bylaw 10125, having been considered in conjunction with:
  - (a) the City's Financial Plan and Capital Program; and*
  - (b) the Greater Vancouver Regional District Solid Waste and Liquid Waste Management Plans;*is hereby found to be consistent with said program and plans, in accordance with Section 477(3)(a) of the Local Government Act;*
- (3) That Bylaw 10125, having been considered in accordance with OCP Bylaw Preparation Consultation Policy 5043, is hereby found not to require further consultation;*
- (4) That Richmond Zoning Bylaw No. 8500, Amendment Bylaw 10004, respecting changes to rezoning signs, be introduced and given first reading; and*
- (5) That Development Permit, Development Variance Permit and Temporary Commercial and Industrial Use Permit Procedure Bylaw No. 7273, Amendment Bylaw 10005, respecting changes to Development Permit and Development Variance Permit signs and to add Temporary Use Permit signs, be introduced and given first reading.*



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued with regard to extending requirements for renderings on signage to rezoning applications and development signage requirements implemented in other municipalities. Examples of development application signage renderings were distributed (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 3).

As a result of the discussion, the following **referral motion** was introduced:

R20/3-11

It was moved and seconded

*That the staff report titled “Council Referral on Signage Improvements for Rezoning and Development Projects - Revised Report”, dated January 10, 2020, from the Director, Development, be referred back to staff to make it mandatory to have renderings on all rezoning and development permit application signage.*

The question on the referral motion was not called as discussion ensued with regard to the suitability of renderings on some rezoning application signs, and options to revise renderings on signage as development projects advance.

The question on the referral motion was then called and it was **DEFEATED** with Mayor Brodie and Cllrs. Greene, Loo, McNulty and McPhail opposed.

The question on the main motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllr. Steves and Wolfe opposed.

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Mayor Brodie announced the following:

- On January 23, 2020, the City entered into two three-year agreements with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (“KPU”) permitting KPU to occupy up to 5.78 acres of land at the South Dyke Agricultural Lands to operate an organic orchard for the purposes of research, demonstration and class work in support of the Richmond Farm School and the Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems’ degree program, and an organic incubator farm to provide opportunities to new farmers to actively farm in an applied, cooperative and supportive manner;



**Regular Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2020**

- The Interim Service Provider Agreement for Minoru Seniors Society was approved;
- The Interim Service Provider Agreement for Richmond Arenas Community Association was approved;
- Contract 6610Q – Supply and Delivery of Richmond Fire-Rescue Occupational and Uniform Clothing for an initial three year term be awarded to three vendors – Unisync Group, Derks Fine Group of Companies and Prototype Integrated Solutions, for the estimated amount of \$379,959, with an option to renew for two further one year terms, for an estimated total contract value of \$696,591 over the five year term; and
- Council will be sending a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture that comments and provides recommendations on potential legislative changes for additional residences on agricultural land.

**ADJOURNMENT**

R20/3-12

It was moved and seconded  
*That the meeting adjourn (9:28 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Monday, February 10, 2020.

---

Mayor (Malcolm D. Brodie)

---

Corporate Officer (Claudia Jesson)

# Birth tourism

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[Jump to navigation](#)[Jump to search](#)



Countries by [birthright citizenship](#)

Unconditional birthright citizenship for persons born in the country

Birthright citizenship with restrictions

Birthright citizenship abolished

**Birth tourism** is the practice of traveling to another country for the purpose of [giving birth](#) in that country. The main reason for birth tourism is to obtain citizenship for the child in a country with birthright citizenship (*[jus soli](#)*). Such a child is sometimes called an "[anchor baby](#)" if their citizenship is intended to help their parents obtain [permanent residency](#) in the country. Other reasons for birth tourism include access to public schooling, healthcare, sponsorship for the parents in the future,<sup>[[u](#)]</sup> or even circumvention of China's [two-child policy](#). Popular destinations include the [United States](#) and [Canada](#). Another target for birth tourism is [Hong Kong](#), where some mainland Chinese citizens travel to give birth to gain [right of abode](#) for their children.

In an effort to discourage birth tourism, [Australia](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Ireland](#), [New Zealand](#), [South Africa](#), and the [United Kingdom](#) have modified their citizenship laws at different times, mostly by granting citizenship by birth only if at least one parent is a citizen of the country or a legal permanent resident who has lived in the country for several years. Germany has never granted unconditional birthright citizenship, but has traditionally used *[jus sanguinis](#)*, so, by giving up the requirement of at least one citizen parent, Germany has softened rather than tightened [its citizenship laws](#); however, unlike their children born in Germany, non-EU- and non-Swiss-citizen parents born abroad usually cannot have dual citizenship.

No European country presently grants unconditional birthright citizenship; however, most countries in the Americas, e.g., the United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil do so. In Africa, Lesotho and Tanzania grant unconditional birthright citizenship,<sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup> as do some in the Asian-Pacific region including Fiji, Pakistan, and Tuvalu.<sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup>

⌈

Contents



Jan 28 2025  
The Prairie

Dr. Kathleen Ross, President of "Doctors of BC"

We're at a crisis, a tipping point, so it's really important that some higher authority takes this on."

The Province newspaper

Richmond is home to a shadowy network of several dozen businesses that help women give birth in Canada for fees in the tens of thousands of dollars

Ads on baidu.com target women hoping to give birth in Canada, promising top notch education and citizenship for their babies. —PNG

# U.S. birth tourism crackdown may mean waves of 'passport babies' in Canada

RANDY SHORE

Canada could see an uptick in birth tourism after the Trump administration granted its customs officers more powers to prevent pregnant women from entering the United States. American consular officials are being urged to refuse entry to women believed to be entering the U.S. in order to gain citizenship for their child by giving birth there.

The United States has made a very good attempt at finding an administrative solution to a growing problem without having to change their constitution," said Richmond-Queensborough MLA Jas Johal.

Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, France, Germany and South Africa have all altered their citizenship laws to discourage birth tourism.

"Canada is one of a few countries that grants citizenship automatically to anyone

ship automatically to anyone

ship automatically to anyone

ship automatically to anyone

born in this country," said Johal. "Where are people going to go if they can't go to the United States? The number-one place is Canada."

Estimates of the number of babies born to birth tourists in the U.S. each year range from 10,000 by the Centers for Disease Control to 40,000 by the Center for Immigration Studies.

In Canada, the number of births to non-residents has more than doubled since 2012, to just over 4,000 a year. Non-residents account for two per cent of all births in Canada.

Doctors have warned that the number of foreign nationals giving birth in Canada is putting a strain on health-care delivery and have urged the federal government to take steps to curb the practice.

"We're at a crisis, a tipping point, so it's really important that some higher authority takes this on," said Dr. Kathleen Ross, president of Doctors of B.C. "Hospitals and

doctors have no option but to provide service. We can't turn people away if they are sick, injured or in labour."

More than half of all babies born to non-residents in B.C. — around 700 a year — are delivered at Richmond Hospital.

In the past two years, 932 babies were born to foreign nationals there, about 22.6 per cent of all births, according to Vancouver Coastal Health. That's up from 15 per cent in 2015.

Foreign nationals give birth to about 10 per cent of babies born at St. Paul's Hospital and Mount St. Joseph, according to the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

More than 92 per cent of medical fees are eventually recovered, according to Vancouver Coastal Health.

Richmond is home to a shadowy network of several dozen businesses that help women give birth in Canada for fees in the tens of thousands of dollars.

"Why is it that \$80,000 buys you a Canadian passport?" Johal asked. "Nearly one in four children born at some hospitals in Richmond are passport babies, so, it's not a hospital anymore, it's a passport mill."

Ads aimed at women in China who want to give birth in Canada offer luxurious accommodation, a guarantee to get through customs, and birthright citizenship for the child in the "world's most livable country."

Among the other benefits extolled by birth tourism businesses: 12 years of free public education, university fees just 10 per cent of those paid by international students, world-class medical facilities and free health care, and reunification immigration for the parents of child citizens once they turn 18.

Services typically include accommodation near the hospital, meals, transportation to and from the hospital, assistance with travel documents

ments and birth certificate applications, and obstetric care.

"If it was a trickle, I wouldn't worry about it, but this has been growing year after year and it's become a significant business," said Johal.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada says birth tourism is not widespread, but the department is taking steps to better understand the practice.

Nonetheless, the federal government last year "invested \$51.9 million to protect Canadians, and those seeking to start a new life in Canada ... from unscrupulous immigration consultants."

"This investment will increase investigations and enforcement, expand public awareness and strengthen the oversight of consultants," the department said in a statement.

— With files from Pamela Fayerman  
rshore@postmedia.com

information about a serious West End assault that has left a man in hospital for nearly two months.

The assault happened on Nov. 30, 2019, just before 1 a.m. on Thurlow north of Davie streets. The man was left with extensive injuries.

Investigators believe the victim was involved in an argument with a group and then assaulted. The attacker is believed to have fled along with two other individuals.

When VPD made their initial plea for tips on Dec. 6, 2019, investigators said they hadn't been able to interview the victim due to his injuries.

On Monday, Vancouver police released surveillance footage of three individuals who may know what happened in the November attack.

## VANCOUVER

### Bike Doctor set to open again

Bike Doctor is returning to Vancouver.

The popular commuter bike store at 137 West Broadway closed in 2018 but will reopen in the same location on Thursday, March 5.

Erich Jurgens, a former employee, is the new owner. He said the store will be getting a facelift, but plans to offer the same kind of service.

— Postmedia Wire Services

repatriating them within 12 hours, often on the same airplane on which they had flown to the United States.<sup>[19]</sup> In March 2015, federal agents conducted raids on a series of large-scale maternity tourism operations bringing thousands of mainland Chinese women intent on giving their children American citizenship.<sup>[13][14]</sup> Congressional representatives such as [Phil Gingrey](#), who have tried to put an end to birth tourism, said these people are "[gaming the system](#)".<sup>[20]</sup> In August 2015, the issue was discussed among U.S. presidential candidates, including [Donald Trump](#) and Jeb Bush.

In January 2019, [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigations](#) led to the arrest of three southern California operators of "multimillion-dollar birth-tourism businesses" catering primarily to Chinese nationals.<sup>[21]</sup>

---

## Today<sup>[edit]</sup>

---

### North America<sup>[edit]</sup>

The United States, Canada, and Mexico all grant unconditional birthright citizenship and allow dual citizenship. The United States taxes its citizens and green card holders worldwide, even if they have never lived in the country. In Mexico, only naturalized citizens can lose their Mexican citizenship again (e.g., by naturalizing in another country).

#### United States<sup>[edit]</sup>

See also: *[Birthright citizenship in the United States of America](#)*

The [Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution](#) guarantees [U.S. citizenship](#) to those born in the United States, provided the person is "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States. Congress has further extended birthright citizenship to all inhabited U.S. territories except [American Samoa](#). (A person born in American Samoa becomes a [non-citizen US national](#)). The parent(s) and child are still subject to *de jure* and *de facto* deportation, respectively.<sup>[2]</sup> However, once they reach 21 years of age, American-born children, as birthright citizens, are able to sponsor their foreign families' U.S. citizenship and residency.<sup>[3]</sup>

There are no statistics about which countries have citizens who participate in birth tourism in the United States. The Center for Health Care Statistics estimates that there were 7,462 births to foreign residents in the United States in 2008, the most recent year for which statistics are available. That is a small fraction of the roughly 4.3 million total births that year.<sup>[4]</sup> The [Center for Immigration Studies](#), a conservative think tank, estimated in 2012 that there were approximately 40,000 annual births to parents in the United States as birth tourists.<sup>[5][6]</sup> The Center also estimated in 2012 that total births to temporary immigrants in the United States (e.g., tourists, students, guest workers) could be as high as 200,000.<sup>[7]</sup>

Russian birth tourism to Florida to 'maternity hotels' in the 2010s is documented.<sup>[3][8][9]</sup> Birth tourism packages complete with lodging and medical care delivered in Russian begin at \$20,000, and go as high as \$84,700 for an apartment in Miami's Trump Tower II complete with a "gold-tiled bathtub and chauffeured Cadillac Escalade."<sup>[9]</sup>

One option for mainland Chinese mothers to give birth is [Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands](#), where the cost is cheaper and travel does not require a [U.S. visa](#).<sup>[10]</sup> More than 70% of the newborns in Saipan have birth tourist PRC parents who take advantage of the 45-day visa-free visitation rules of the territory and the Covenant of the Northern Mariana Islands to ensure that their children can have American citizenship. There were 282 of these births in 2012.<sup>[11]</sup>

As of 2015, [Los Angeles](#) is considered a center of the maternity tourism industry, which caters mostly to Asian women from [China](#) and [Taiwan](#).<sup>[12]</sup> authorities in the city there closed 14 maternity tourism "hotels" in 2013.<sup>[13]</sup> The industry is difficult to close down since it is not illegal for a pregnant woman to travel to the U.S.<sup>[13]</sup>

On March 3, 2015, Federal agents in Los Angeles conducted a series of raids on three "multimillion-dollar birth-tourism businesses" expected to produce the "biggest federal criminal case ever against the booming 'anchor baby' industry", according to the [Wall Street Journal](#).<sup>[13][14]</sup>

Numerous "maternity businesses" advise pregnant mothers to hide their pregnancies from officials and commit visa fraud—lying to customs agents about their true purpose in the U.S.<sup>[15]</sup> Once they give birth, several 'birth tourism' agencies aid the mothers in defrauding the U.S. hospital, taking advantage of discounts reserved for impoverished American mothers.<sup>[16][17]</sup> Some mothers will refuse to pay the bill for the medical care received during their hospital stay.<sup>[18]</sup>

On October 18, 2014, the North American Chinese language *Daily World Journal* reported that for several weeks the immigration authorities at [LAX](#) had been closely questioning pregnant Chinese women arriving there from China, and in many cases denying them entry to the United States and

**Open for signature**

March 19, 2018, at 1:52 p.m. (EDT)

**Closed for signature**

July 17, 2018, at 1:52 p.m. (EDT)

**Presented to the House of Commons**

Joe Peschisolido (Steveston—Richmond East)

October 5, 2018 (Petition No. 421-02721)

**Government response tabled**

November 19, 2018

## Petition to the House of Commons in Parliament assembled

Whereas:

- An abusive and exploitative practice known as 'Birth Tourism' now exists in Canada, whereby expectant mothers who are foreign nationals, with no status in Canada, gain automatic citizenship for their children born in Canada;
- The practice of 'Birth Tourism' is fundamentally debasing the value of Canadian citizenship;
- The practice of 'Birth Tourism' can be very costly to taxpayers, since it can be used to gain access to Canada's publicly subsidized post-secondary education system and to take advantage of Canada's public healthcare system and generous social security programs, all without having to contribute much to the funding of these systems and programs';
- Canadian citizens and permanent residents have been displaced by foreign nationals at local hospitals, thereby requiring Canadian citizens and permanent residents to seek medical attention at other facilities;
- Underground and unregulated 'for profit' businesses have developed both in Canada and 'countries of origin' to facilitate the practice of 'Birth Tourism'; and
- The instances of 'Birth Tourism' are increasing in multiple cities across Canada.

We, the undersigned, **citizens and permanent residents of Canada**, call upon the **House of Commons in Parliament assembled** to:

1. Publicly state that the government does not support 'Birth Tourism' due to the inherent unfairness of this practice and the negative consequences associated with it;
  2. Commit public resources to determine the full extent of this practice across Canada; and
  3. Expeditiously implement concrete measures to reduce and eliminate this practice.
-

**Open for signature**

June 16, 2016, at 10:40 a.m. (EDT)

**Closed for signature**

October 14, 2016, at 10:40 a.m. (EDT)

**Presented to the House of Commons**

[Alice Wong \(Richmond Centre\)](#)

October 19, 2016 (Petition No. 421-00775)

**Government response tabled**

December 2, 2016

## Petition to the Government of Canada

Whereas:

- The Jus soli, or birthright citizenship, law of Canada enables an abusive and exploitative practice often called 'Birth Tourism', which permits expectant mothers who are foreign nationals, with no status in Canada, to gain automatic citizenship for their children born within Canada;
- All but one other developed country in the world has eliminated provision for birthright citizenship because of the widespread abuse it is open to; and
- The practice of 'Birth Tourism' can be very costly to taxpayers since it is used to ensure that after the child reaches 18 years of age Canada's education system can be used at a publicly subsidised cost, and he/she can sponsor his/her parents and many other family members, thus taking advantage of Canada's public health system and social security programmes such as OAS and the GIS.

We, the undersigned, **Citizens of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to:

1. Enact legislation which will **fully eliminate birthright citizenship** in Canada unless one of the parents of the child born in Canada is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
2. Ensure the new legislation is thorough and complete, and does not allow any 'loopholes' which permit birthright citizenship;
3. Consult with the Supreme Court before enacting the legislation in order to best ensure that the new legislation will not be challenged in court; and
4. Immediately invoke the Notwithstanding Clause in support of the legislation, if it is overturned in the Supreme Court, and that it immediately re-write the law in a form which will better withstand future court challenges.



City of Richmond



Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, February 10, 2020.

**Memorandum**  
Community Safety Division  
Business Licences

**To:** Mayor and Councillors  
**From:** Carli Williams, P.Eng.  
Manager, Business Licence and Bylaws  
**Re:** **Regulatory Options related to Birth Tourism**

**Date:** February 4, 2020

**File:** 12-8000-01/2020-Vol 01

PHOTOCOPIED  
CNCL - FEB 10, 2020

FEB - 7 2020

Item #18

\* DISTRIBUTED

RG

At the General Purposes Committee meeting on February 3, 2020, the Committee asked staff for information about regulating activities related to "Birth Tourism". In this context, birth tourism is the label given to a number of different activities that provide accommodation and/or personal and health services for individuals or families that travel to Richmond specifically to deliver and care for a newborn child. The following memo provides information on each of the points addressed by the Committee.

Enforcement of Business Licence Bylaws

According to Business Licence Bylaw No. 7360 all commercial or industrial undertakings or services for the purpose of gain or profit must have a business licence. The City does not have the authority to prohibit "birth tourism" but the activities associated with this can be licenced and regulated through our current regulatory powers.

All reports of birth tourism or birth houses are investigated by bylaw enforcement staff. As part of their investigation, staff are instructed to identify all potential business operations in addition to compliance with building and zoning regulations. It is typical to find birth tourism operations supported by businesses that offer meal services, housecleaning or child care. Bylaw tickets are issued to any unlicensed business or service. However, the effectiveness of issuing tickets is short-lived if the impacted business applies for a business licence and there are no lawful grounds to deny issuing the licence.

Role of the City to Regulate Tenancy

The City of Richmond does not currently require licences from property owners who rent their home or a room or suite in their home other than for short term rental. To regulate specifically birthing tourism businesses separate from other long term rental, the City would have to create a new category of licences and business regulations. However, the City cannot adopt any regulation that in any way could be determined to infringe on the rights of women to rent property to live in or vacation in the City.

The current practice of bylaw enforcement staff is to ensure compliance with zoning regulations, including the maximum number of unrelated people living in a home and regulations for boarders and lodgers. In all but a handful of investigations, staff find just one family at each

location suspected of providing birth tourism and the family is usually staying at the same location for 4-6 months. This does not violate any City regulations and, upon investigation, does not appear to be different than other residential tenancies.

Provincial Role in Regulating Birth Tourism

Under the *Public Health Bylaws Regulation*, the City cannot pass any bylaws relating to the restriction or potential restriction of any individual's access to health services without the prior approval of the Minister of Health. Individuals in Richmond access health care through services provided by Vancouver Coastal Health. This includes visits to the hospital as well as home visits by public health nurses. City staff have met with Vancouver Coastal Health to educate them on City bylaws and encourage them to report locations of suspected birth tourism so that they can be investigated by bylaw enforcement staff.

In general, birth tourism is influenced by Federal legislation relating to citizenship and Provincial regulations related to access to health care services. Any questions relating to the City's approach to investigating birth tourism locations or questions about potential municipal regulation can be directed to the writer below.



---

Carli Williams, P.Eng.  
Manager, Business Licence and Bylaws  
(604) 276-4136

pc: SMT  
Claudia Jesson, Director, City Clerk's Office

COUNCIL REFERRAL ON SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR REZONING AND  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS- REVISED REPORT

Memo from Wayne Craig Feb 7th 2020 " ***recommends renderings of proposed projects on al Development permit signage*** " and then states " ***but did not recommend requiring artistic rendering on Rezoning application signage***"

The City of Vancouver has renderings on their Re-Zoning signs and if the project changes they simply overlay a new picture. I feel strongly that pictures help the public understand the project and we should add text that states:

" **Artistic rendering, contact city staff for potential updates**".

When a rendering is not available the picture could be substituted for another graphic such as a :

- \* Aerial view of lot
- \* Interior Line drawing
- \* Exterior rendering
- \* Line drawing of exterior

My Amendment will be **to require renderings on all Development , Rezoning and Permit signs.**

Please find attached a sample of the City of Vancouver signs with changes such as red lettering for **REVISED APPLICATION** and bold text for **DETAILS APPLICATION ADDENDUM.**

Sorry the sample is a little fuzzy but it was the best I could find.  
Thanks for considering my amendment to this .

*Best regards,*

**Carol Day**

---





# REVISED APPLICATION



# APPLICATION ADDENDUM

For Lease / Sale  
Build to Suit



Downtown Cloverdale  
Development Site

[collierscanada.com/23848](http://collierscanada.com/23848)

Dylan Sohi

Personal Real Estate Corporation

Mike Grewal

Personal Real Estate Corporation

604 681 4111