

VanRIMS No.: 8-3000-11

## MEMORANDUM

October 15, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Rosemary Hagiwara, City Clerk

FROM: Vancouver City Planning Commission,

SUBJECT: Support for Council Motion B.4: *Ensuring Equity for Speakers Using Translation*

As part of its mandate to advise Mayor and Council on issues relevant to the future of the city, the Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) wishes to take this opportunity to provide input and comment regarding Councillor Swanson's upcoming [Motion B.4 - Ensuring Equity for Speakers Using Translation](#).

Whereas:

1. The Vancouver City Planning Commission is committed to embedding and reflecting justice, equity, decolonization and inclusion in all of our work and in our recommendations to City Council
2. Vancouver is a linguistically diverse city; 45% of residents speak a first language other than English or French.
3. That the City of Vancouver, as a City of Reconciliation and through its Vancouver Plan Goals, aims to decolonize and "create an equitable, diverse and inclusive city."
4. All speakers at Council meetings are limited to five minutes. This includes non-English speakers who require translation services, and therefore end up with less speaking time. This disproportionately and inequitably impacts non-English speakers, including seniors, migrants, low-income communities who do not speak English and many Indigenous peoples, from fully participating in civic matters.

Therefore, we recommend that:

1. Council adopt Motion B4 to amend Procedure By-law No. 1257, including sections 7.5, 13.18 and 13.20 and elsewhere as necessary, to provide speakers using translation or interpretation services with up to ten minutes to speak to Council.

2. Allowing equal time for Indigenous people to speak in their own language would be one (small) step towards decolonization.

We are pleased that Council is seeking to adjust its practices and procedures to improve the public's engagement with, and respect for, local government. We hope that our input will contribute to making the Vancouver City Council a recognized leader in public engagement on municipal governance.