

Inquiry to the City Clerk's Office:

Whereas the Premier of Alberta, Ralph Klein and the Premier of British Columbia have signed a "Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement" without consultation with either their provincial legislatures or the municipalities of either province;

Whereas this trade agreement will establish an unelected, third party board similar to the Ontario Municipal Board to regulate trade disputes between the provinces according to the terms of the agreement;

Whereas, the Alberta/B.C. Trade Agreement will function like a municipal North American Free Trade Agreement, by giving extensive new grounds to the private sector to sue local governments for trade infractions such as municipal construction regulations, zoning, quality densification standards etc.;

Whereas it will not come into force until April 2007, but there is already opposition in the west based on the lack of democratic process, i.e. neither the B.C. or Alberta legislatures were ever consulted, nor were any of the municipalities or municipal organizations on the possible consequences for the well being of each province;

Whereas it is possible that the Premier of [insert name of province here] may sign on to a similar agreement for [insert province here] and Alberta without consulting either [insert province here], municipalities or the provincial legislature;

Therefore would the Clerk's Office prepare a report for Council outlining the possible advantages and disadvantages of this kind of Trade Agreement for the City of [insert municipality here] and recommend the proper route to make our concerns known to the government of [insert province here].