



## MOTION ON NOTICE

### Prohibition of Balloons in Parks

MOVER: Commissioner Mackinnon

SECONDER: Commissioner

#### WHEREAS:

1. Balloons being made of latex or plastic are non-renewable, and non-renewables are an ever-increasing product in our landfills, beaches, waterways, oceans and other natural areas;
2. Animals both on land and in the oceans frequently misidentify deflated balloons as sources of food. Sea turtles are especially vulnerable as jellyfish are a common prey item and often the animals consume deflated balloons floating on the water's surface, thinking they are a suitable food source which leads to stomach or intestinal blockages and eventual starvation;
3. Naturally curious animals, such as birds and dolphins, are attracted to bright colours and shiny objects, and end up mistakenly ingesting balloons;
4. Accidental consumption isn't the only danger associated with balloons - the strings or ribbons attached to them are just as harmful. Birds often get entangled, and, once unable to fly, face certain death. Flippers and fins of sea turtles, seals, and dolphins can also become wrapped in string, causing infections, amputations and/or death by drowning; and
5. Balloons can also be harmful or even fatal to young children—one study\* found that balloons cause more childhood deaths than any other toy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation prohibit the use, and/or display of balloons in parks, community centres, and other areas within the jurisdiction of the Board.

*\*Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in conjunction with DuPont Institute, and Inchcape Testing Services Risk Analysis and Management*