

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

"Krishna, Kaye" <Kaye.Krishna@vancouver.ca>

"Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 12/4/2018 11:02:34 AM

**Subject:** Memo: Shark Fin Ban (RTS 012851)

**Attachments:** ACCS - Social Policy - Memo to Council - Shark fin ban - Nov. 2018.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

At the regular Council meeting on November 13, 2018, Cllr. Kirby-Young requested an update on the status of a shark fin ban in the City of Vancouver. The attached memo provides an update and includes the following highlights:

- Global harvesting of sharks for a variety of uses including a traditional Chinese shark fin soup has put unsustainable pressure on shark populations. In-keeping with international efforts to curb the demand for shark fin, the City considered enacting a shark fin ban in 2013 but ultimately did not take action;
  
- In April 2018, the City issued a formal apology for historical discrimination against Chinese people in Vancouver, including discrimination against cultural practices and food-related businesses. Within this context of reconciliation, the potential implications of a City-imposed shark fin ban are complex;
  
- In October 2018, Canada's Senate passed Bill S-238 (*Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act*). The Bill will now go to the House of Commons for debate and vote;
  
- Staff recommend awaiting the decision of Parliament before taking any action on this matter.

Please contact Sandra Singh, GM of ACCS, or Kaye Krishna, GM of DBL, if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** | Deputy City Manager  
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## MEMORANDUM

December 3, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director Social Policy and Projects

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services  
Kaye Krishna, General Manager, Development, Buildings, and Licensing

SUBJECT: Shark Fin Ban (RTS 012851)

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At the regular Council meeting on November 13, 2018, Cllr. Kirby-Young submitted a request to staff for an update on the status of a shark fin ban as it pertains to the City of Vancouver.

### CURRENT CONTEXT

An estimated 100 million sharks are harvested annually from the world's oceans to satisfy global markets for shark products including meat, oil, and fins. This harvesting is widely recognized to have put unsustainable pressure on shark populations. A primary use of shark fins is in a traditional Chinese soup that can be served as a symbol of respect on special occasions such as weddings. The link between this culinary practice and the detrimental environmental impacts of shark harvesting has prompted international efforts to curb the demand for shark fin soup. Approaches have ranged from promoting shark fin alternatives to adopting shark fin bans.

In 2012 Council passed a motion instructing staff to work with the City of Richmond and City Burnaby to develop a common approach to ban the sale of shark fin and report back on options. A March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 staff memo to Council reported that the City of Burnaby had decided not to advance a ban on the possession, consumption, or trade, of shark fin products, and that the City of Richmond was poised to do the same. To date, neither city has taken further action on this issue.

Under the Vancouver Charter, Council has the authority to regulate and license businesses. The Council also has the authority to prohibit businesses, which could include those selling shark fin products. The unanimous vote of Council members is required.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, the City of Vancouver issued a public acknowledgement and apology for historical discrimination against Chinese people in Vancouver, including discrimination against cultural practices and food-related businesses. Within the context of the City's efforts toward reconciliation with diverse communities and the ongoing cultural significance of shark fin for many members of Vancouver's Asian community, the potential implications of a City-imposed ban on shark fin are complex. Meaningful engagement would be an important part of any work to advance this issue, and such work is not in the 2019 workplan for Arts, Culture, and Community Services or Development, Buildings, & Licensing.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, Canada's Senate passed Bill S-238 (Ban on Shark Fin Importation Act). The Bill will now go to the House of Commons for debate and vote. If adopted there, it will prohibit shark finning (the act of removing fins from sharks and discarding the rest of the shark at sea) and the Canadian import and export of shark fins and any derivatives.

Staff recommend awaiting the decision of Parliament before taking any action on this matter. Please direct any additional questions on this matter to the following:


Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

604.871.6858 | [sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca)

Kaye Krishna, General Manager, Development, Buildings, and Licensing

604.873.7160 | [kaye.krishna@vancouver.ca](mailto:kaye.krishna@vancouver.ca)

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Singh".

Sandra Singh  
General Manager

tel: 604.871.6858  
[sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca)

SS/th