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## MOTION ON NOTICE

### Addressing Downloading of Provincial and Federal Responsibilities

Submitted by: Dylan Kruger

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WHEREAS senior levels of government have not adequately supported, provided or funded essential services under their jurisdiction, including accessible health care, hospitals, social services, police services, non-market housing, and critical infrastructure projects such as dike upgrades, secondary channel dredging, and a River Road overpass;

AND WHEREAS municipalities increasingly face the burden of funding provincial or federal areas of responsibility in order to address service gaps, a practice commonly referred to as downloading, wherein senior governments shift their obligations, whether financial or otherwise, onto local governments;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver reported in 2021 and 2022 that downloading from senior governments results in an estimated \$250 million per year in additional operating and capital costs;

AND WHEREAS the financial burden transferred to the City of Delta ultimately impacts municipal taxpayers, creating pressure for increased property taxes and fees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff provide a report on the financial impacts of downloading including the cumulative costs associated with provincial and federal responsibilities that have shifted to the City of Delta over time;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the report includes, but is not limited to, costs related to health and social services, housing, homelessness response, mental health and addiction supports, police services, critical infrastructure upgrades, and any other areas where the City is funding or is considering funding responsibilities traditionally held by senior levels of government.

Relevant links:

[https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/local-news/reliance-on-property-taxes-neither-sustainable-nor-resilient-for-bc-municipalities-9902499?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/local-news/reliance-on-property-taxes-neither-sustainable-nor-resilient-for-bc-municipalities-9902499?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/tri-city-news-archive/news/coquitlam-to-delve-into-the-true-costs-of-downloading-10467654>

**Comments provided by the Corporate Services Department:**

*Subject to the motion being adopted by Council, staff will prepare a report that analyzes the direct and indirect financial impacts of provincial and federal downloading. As noted in Vancouver's reports cited in the motion, not all downloading can be quantified; where it can't, staff will provide a qualitative analysis. Staff have most of the financial data available on hand and can compile the information into a general report using existing staff resources.*