

MOTION ON NOTICE

B.1

1. Council Endorsement of Coventry Declaration

MOVER: Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS:

1. The following declaration was approved by conference delegates at Play the Game 2009, the sixth world communications conference on sport and society.
2. It is crucial for the COV to protect Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the city of Vancouver endorse the Coventry Declaration, copied in full text below.

Coventry Declaration

The expression of ideas through the written or spoken word is fundamental to democracy and the rights of all individuals and groups. The right to express one's self through words is a pillar of a civil and democratic society.

During the first week of June 2009, author Chris Shaw was confronted by two police officers in the city of Vancouver where the 2010 Winter Olympics will be held.

The police told him they wanted to talk to him about his book, "Five Ring Circus", a critical analysis of the Vancouver Games.

They persisted to question him over a period of time.

During the first week of June, twenty individuals who had questioned the Olympic Games were visited by police officers in their homes, workplaces or while going about their business.

Participants at Play the Game condemn, in the strongest manner possible, any action in Canada that in any way, shape, or form harasses, intimidates, or threatens any writers or individuals who express ideas through words.

Participants at Play the Game ask the city of Vancouver, the province of British Columbia, the Canadian government, VANOC, and the Vancouver Integrated Security Unit, to state in unequivocal language, that all Canadians and those who visit Canada, will have their fundamental right to:

1. *Security of the person*
2. *Freedom of expression*

protected, respected and unimpinged as Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

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