

Council Member Motion For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 12, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole Date: June 8, 2025

From: Councillor Krista Loughton, Councillor Jeremy Caradonna, and Councillor Dave

Thompson

Subject: UBCM Resolution - Supportive Housing Targets and Treatment

LATE MOTION RATIONALE

The Union of B.C. Municipalities resolutions must be received by June 15, 2025. To meet the deadline, this motion must be considered at the June 12, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

BACKGROUND

Unsheltered homelessness is an untenable situation in B.C. communities that negatively affects people experiencing homelessness, and housed residents and businesses in areas where sheltering occurs. The resulting social disorder has pushed past the breaking point in British Columbia.

In September 2023, the B.C. Provincial government started rolling out housing targets for municipalities. Included in the breakdown of housing types within these targets are Supportive Rental Units (with on-site supports). These units must be prioritized with urgency to end the social disorder crisis in B.C. communities, which a lack of affordable housing and healthcare supports has created.

Purpose-built supportive housing is essential, but it will not solve the issues on its own. There also needs to be a proportionate number of detox beds and treatment options. These facilities need to be created in line with the needs of people in each community.

Generally, a recovery-focused system is required that includes low-barrier supportive housing for those who are not ready to go straight to detox; detox and recovery beds in the same facility; treatment options and therapeutic communities; and second-stage housing for stabilization. Permanent housing is the last step, which can be achieved using rent supplements (to bridge the gap between the income assistance housing allowance and market rents), non-market affordable housing, and high-barrier supportive housing for those who need permanent support. These systems must work in concert with one another and must have a modest vacancy rate to support recovery journeys that typically are not linear.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following resolution to be considered by the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) at the 2025 Annual Convention, and if approved, that it be forwarded to Council for sameday consideration and that staff then forward this to UBCM by June 15, 2025.

Supportive Housing Targets and Treatment

WHEREAS the affordable housing and addiction crises have created an untenable situation with street disorder in B.C. communities;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial government has assigned supportive housing targets across B.C. without the inclusion of the proportionate number of detox and treatment facilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs urgently pursue the delivery of Supportive Rental Units within the housing target guidelines given to municipalities, and that the Minister of Health ensure that these units are met with the proportionate number of detox beds and appropriate treatment facilities required for each community.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Loughton

Councillor Caradonna

Councillor Thompson