

## Council Member Motion For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 6, 2018

То:	Committee of the Whole	Date:	November 27, 2018
From:	Councillors Alto and Thornton-Joe		
Subject:	Increasing Provincial Funds for Mental Health and Addiction Services		

## Background

As the capital region experiences and encourages increasing density in the residential population in its core, there are greater expectations and needs for social services in the downtown neighbourhood.

First and urgent responders in teams that include social service providers, peers, non-profit and government health professionals, and police officers face increasing numbers of dramatically more complex circumstances in which individuals are in the throes of life threatening conditions, accidents and incidents.

The BC government has repeatedly committed to addressing the health crises affecting persons who are unhoused, addicted and/or live with mental (and subsequent physical) illnesses, and has provided increasing funding to support services to respond to the needs of these persons.

These financial commitments have not stemmed the tide of overdose deaths, nor provided adequate mental health and addictions services, nor sufficient resources to first responders or their colleagues in the non-profit and government emergent, acute and supportive care sectors, who are doing all they can with the resources available to them.

## **Resolved that:**

(a) That the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Victoria, write to the BC Minister of Health, the BC Minister of Addictions and Mental Health, and the BC Minister of Finance asking that their ministries immediately increase funds for mental health and addiction services throughout the province, and further direct BC Health Authorities to use such additional resources specifically in the provision of additional and enhanced government and non-profit services and programs dealing with addictions and mental health.

(b) That the Mayor's letter be copied to the Township of Esquimalt, with a request that the Township's Mayor write a similar letter to the same Ministers with the same request.

(c) That the Mayor's letter be copied to the Mayors of all the municipalities in the Capital Region, and the BC Premier, for their information.

Respectfully submitted,

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Councillor Alto

Charleyre Showton - Joe

Councillor Thornton-Joe