



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 21, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** March 15, 2019
From: Councillor Collins and Councillor Potts
Subject: Call for Appropriate Levels of Funding for Legal Aid

Call for Appropriate Levels of Funding for Legal Aid

WHEREAS legal aid is an essential service which provides the marginalized, vulnerable and poor with access to justice;

WHEREAS legal aid has been chronically underfunded for over 25 years making it very difficult for the marginalized, vulnerable and poor to get legal assistance from a lawyer;

WHEREAS many studies and reports, including those commissioned by Government, have noted the serious consequences for society by the continued chronic underfunding of legal aid;

WHEREAS the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers have been attempting to negotiate appropriate levels of funding for legal aid;

AND WHEREAS the over 590 members of the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers voted overwhelmingly to withdraw services on April 1, 2019, to protest the intolerable levels of funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. THAT the City of Victoria recognizes that legal aid is an essential public service that provides legal representation to the most vulnerable, marginalized and impoverished members of our city and that the chronic underfunding of legal aid has led to a serious inequality in the delivery of legal services in our communities and
2. THAT the City of Victoria encourages the Province of British Columbia to resolve this matter with the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurel Collins".

Councillor Collins

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Councillor Potts".

Councillor Potts