

Council Member Motion For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 21st 2019

То:	Committee of the Whole	Date:	November 15 2019
From:	Mayor Helps		
Subject:	Adoption of Victoria Call to Action		

BACKGROUND

In late October more than 350 delegates from across Canada and the United States gathered in Victoria for the 2019 Livable Cities Forum, "Building Better Communities Through Resilience," which was hosted by the City of Victoria and ICLEI Canada, in partnership with SHIFT Collaborative and the Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT).

Cities and towns across North America are on the front lines of floods, fires and other climaterelated disasters. In response and to be ready in the face of coming climate-related disasters, 50 mayors and councillors from Canada and the US convened for a day-long, interactive session focusing on building social resilience, community belonging and inclusion as a key resilience strategy.

The Leadership & Legacy session highlighted a coordinated story of leadership at the local level and provided a showcase of the tangible outcomes that real level action on resilience is having in cities. The day's sessions culminated in a collective Call to Action (attached) for locally elected officials to build resilience through thriving and inclusive communities.

Following remarks from Mary Rowe, President & CEO of Canadian Urban Institute and Gleam Davis, Mayor of Santa Monica, the Elected Officials discussed building neighbourhood and community resilience and social cohesion. They shared examples of existing examples of community resilience and social cohesion and how an equity lens could be applied to increase cohesion. They also identified key challenges to building social cohesion and what they might take back to their community based on the dialogue.

The 2014 National Climate Assessment acknowledged that all Canadians are at risk from the health impacts of climate change. But vulnerability to health-related climate impacts is often socially determined. Income, social support networks, culture, gender, education and literacy all influence individual and community capacity to adapt to climate impacts.

In an afternoon session the mayors and councillors tackled the challenging question of what tangible actions they can take to advance progress on this complex issue of health equity and climate change, and what kinds of partnerships are necessary to do so. Elected officials from across Canada recognized that municipalities can and should do more to bring health and equity into the climate conversation.

The day of dialogue and networking ended with elected officials finalizing the "Victoria Call to Action: Building Resilience Through Thriving and Inclusive Communities" for local leaders to advance work on the health, well-being and social cohesion aspects of resilience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Council adopt the Victoria Call to Action.
- 2. That Council forward the Victoria call to Action to the FCM for consideration of adoption at the June 2019 Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Helps