



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Sept 17th, 2020

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** Sept. 14, 2020
From: Councillor Loveday and Councillor Potts
Subject: Advocacy to Expand the Extreme Weather Response to Non-winter Extreme Weather Events

RECOMMENDATION

The provincially funded Extreme Weather Response (EWR) program provides individuals and families in need with access to a warm, dry place to sleep during extreme weather conditions between November 1st and March 31st. According to the local Extreme Weather Protocol website, due to Covid-19, extreme weather shelters are not planned to be activated in our region until further notice.

As forest fires have become more frequent and extreme, smoke filled skies and air quality warnings have become more common. These warnings recommend people stay indoors if possible and avoid strenuous activity outdoors. Meanwhile, unhoused residents including those at-risk for health complications, have no indoor spaces to shelter away from the smoke and poor air quality. As climate change worsens, our region is expected to continue to face more extreme weather. It is therefore recommended that Council advocate to the Minister Municipal Affairs and Housing and BC Housing to extend the Extreme Weather Response (EWR) to non-winter extreme weather events to provide 24-hour access to shelter and other necessary services.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council request the Mayor write to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs and BC Housing, advocating for the Extreme Weather Response to be expanded to open shelters and provide other necessary services during non-winter extreme weather events including when poor air quality presents a health risk.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loveday".

Councillor Loveday

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Potts".

Councillor Potts