



## Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 18, 2021

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**Date:** February 15, 2021

**From:** Councillor Sarah Potts and Councillor Ben Isitt

**Subject:** Deployment of Effective Emergency Shelter and Emergency Social Services

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### Recommendation:

That Council adopt the following resolution:

**Resolution: Deployment of Effective Emergency Shelter and Emergency Social Services**

WHEREAS under the Emergency Program Act “emergency” means a present or imminent event or circumstance that: (a) is caused by accident, fire, explosion, technical failure or the forces of nature, and (b) requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property;

AND WHEREAS the Emergency Program Act specifies in section 6(1) that a local authority is at all times responsible for the direction and control of the local authority's emergency response, subject to sections 6(1), 8(2), 13(2) and 14(3);

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria's Emergency Plan (2018) states that British Columbians forced from their homes by fire, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies may receive emergency social services. Services may include food, lodging, clothing, emotional support, information about the crisis, and family reunification. There may also be special services like first aid, child minding, pet care and transportation;

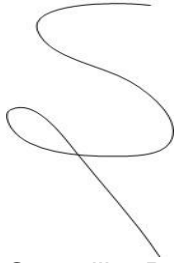
AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria's Emergency Plan (2018) states that provisions for Emergency Social Services in Victoria are secured through renewing supplier agreements with business partners every two years;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria's Emergency Plan (2018) states that the City of Victoria has agreements in place with neighbourhood associations authorizing the City to use the neighbourhood centres as Emergency Social Service facilities (reception centres or group lodging) when necessary. These agreements exist between the City and the Societies who administer the following Community Centres: James Bay New Horizons, James Bay Community Centre, Fairfield Community Centre, Cook Street Village Activity Centre, Victoria Silver Threads, Fernwood Community Centre, Oaklands Community Centre, Quadra Village Community Centre, Burnside Gorge Community Centre and Victoria West Community Centre. Informal agreements exist with Christ Church Cathedral and school, The Cridge Centre for the Family, Crystal Pool, James Bay United Church, Latter Day Saints Church, Trafalgar/Pro Patria Legion and The Tai Chi Centre;

AND WHEREAS under the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation, Local Authorities are required to have a plan which describes how provisions of food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and medical services are provided;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria work with partner agencies and parameters outlined in the existing City of Victoria Emergency Plan (2018) to establish an effective emergency shelter function for unhoused persons, including activating municipally-owned property, to provide emergency shelter and other emergency social services to meet community needs in the event of emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Potts



Councillor Isitt

Attachments:

1. City of Victoria Emergency Plan (2018):  
<https://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Emergency~Preparedness/Documents/City%20of%20Victoria%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf>
2. Emergency Program Act:  
[https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00\\_96111\\_01#section6](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_96111_01#section6)