

June 22, 2021

Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Re: 2021 Resolution(s)

UBCM confirms receipt of the attached resolution(s) endorsed by your Council and submitted directly to UBCM by the June 30 deadline.

The resolution(s) will be included in UBCM Resolutions Book for the 2021 UBCM Convention in September.

If you have any questions, please contact Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst at 604.270.8226 ext. 100 or jjustason@ubcm.ca.

Yours truly,



Brian Frenkel
UBCM President

Enclosure

Inclusion of Allied Health Workers to Help Combat the Opioid Crisis

Victoria

Whereas the opioid crisis and mental health challenges affect at least 1 in 5 BC residents and has been compounded by the COVID-19;

And whereas evidence shows that access to upstream services such as counselling related specialties and physical/occupational therapy decreases opioid use and/or provides better health intervention outcomes, but these are not accessible to many residents as they are not covered and are much too expensive through fee for services;

And whereas communities are currently struggling to meet the needs of our residents, between funding of community programs and increased mental health calls for first responders, which already comprise between 20-30% of local government expenditures and are not often the most appropriate service to support people in crisis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province expand access to and funding for allied health professionals, particularly mental health counselling specialties and physical/occupational therapy related specialties, through expansion of team-based care through not-for-profit delivery including community health centres, available to all BC residents regardless of their immigration status and income, throughout the province;

And be it further resolved that the Province increase support and funding for Peer Navigators as part of the BC Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

Convention Decision:

Provincial Support for TRC, MMIWG2S and UNDRIP

Victoria

Whereas local governments in British Columbia are integral for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada Calls to Action, Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People, (MMIWG2S) Calls for Justice, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) but have the least resources to do the work meaningfully;

And whereas local governments are committed to advancing truth, justice, and reconciliation, and understanding that each Aboriginal community has different and diverse histories, making local context and consultation critical to meaningful action:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to provide support and equitable access to funding for trauma-informed, Indigenous-led education, training, and policy guidance for local governments and associated law enforcement and emergency services to implement municipal-specific recommendations from the TRC, MMIWG2S, and UNDRIP

Convention Decision: