



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 22, 2018

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** February 13, 2018
From: Councillor Loveday
Subject: Advocacy and Local Action for Treatment and Recovery Options for People with Addictions

BACKGROUND

Our Province is facing a mental health and addictions crisis, and it is hitting the City of Victoria hard. The Provincial Government has formed a Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to address the crisis through short and long term actions.

Addiction is a disease that requires a range of responses including prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. This continuum of responses has been supported by the City of Victoria since 2011, when the City Council adopted the 5 pillars approach to addictions. Additionally, the establishment of Supervised Consumption Services is identified as a goal in the City of Victoria's 2015-2018 strategic plan.

When someone living with an addiction is ready to seek treatment, there should be services and support to help get them the care they need. Currently, the reality is that many people seeking treatment face multiple barriers including long waitlists, having to travel off Vancouver Island, or financial impediments that block them from receiving treatment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council request that the Mayor write to the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions requesting that the Province open publicly funded and financially accessible treatment and recovery rooms and facilities on lower Vancouver Island.

And That Council direct staff to report back with options for allowing sober housing for people in recovery within residential zones.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Councillor Loveday