



For the **Committee of the Whole Meeting** May 25, 2017

Date: Friday May 19 2017 **From:** Mayor Helps and Councillor Lucas

Subject: B4Stage4 Declaration

Background

The Canadian Mental Health Association has launched a campaign called “B4Stage4” which focusses on early intervention and prevention with regard to mental health and wellness. The Association is asking local governments to sign their declaration.

Here is a summary from the Canadian Mental Health Association about the rationale for this campaign:

“There is a clear opportunity sitting in front of all of us. If, together, we take the bold steps needed to improve mental health in our province, we can improve the lives of thousands of people across British Columbia. It is time to focus on prevention, early identification and early intervention. We currently pay for a system of care in the most expensive ways possible. People wait too long for care and too many people get their care from emergency departments and from police.

“We can offer proven choices and supports to help people recover—clinical services, medications, peer supports, counselling, family supports, and other therapies—and keep people connected to their families and their community. Intervening as early as possible preserves a person’s education, employment, social supports, housing—and it also costs less than the tragic revolving door of incarceration, hospitalization, and homelessness.

“The Canadian Mental Health Association is calling for community organizations, academic institutions, professional associations, labour organizations, elected officials and business leaders to value mental health and addiction care equally to physical health care.”

Recommendations

1. That Council endorse the Canadian Mental Health Association’s B4Stage4 Declaration as attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Mayor Helps

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

Councillor Lucas