



**Council Member Report  
For the Council Meeting of March 24, 2016**

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**To:** Council

**Date:** March 10, 2016

**From:** Councillors Isitt and Loveday

**Subject:** Saving Lives Through Organ Donation

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**Background:**

The Kidney Foundation of Canada, BC Chapter, and other organizations have requested that local governments take an active role encouraging residents to sign up as donors of live-saving organs.

It is therefore recommended that Council endorse the following resolution for consideration at the 2016 annual conference of the Union of BC Municipalities and forward a copy to member local governments encouraging resolutions of support.

**Recommendation:**

THAT Council endorse the following resolution for consideration at the Union of BC Municipalities 2016 annual conference, and direct staff to forward a copy to UBCM and to member local governments, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

**Saving Lives Through Organ Donation**

WHEREAS organ donation saves lives;

AND WHEREAS organ donation is the best available option for many people in our communities with serious medical conditions and diseases to live well and contribute fully to their family and their community;

AND WHEREAS BC has one of the lowest organ donor registration rates in Canada;

AND WHEREAS local governments can demonstrate leadership and resolve to encourage citizens in BC communities to register as organ donors,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities calls upon all local government elected officials to accept the challenge to Save Lives Through Organ Donation and work with community partners to increase the number of people registered as organ donors in our communities.

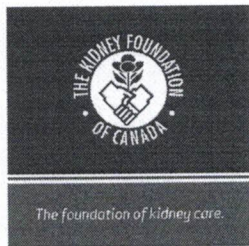
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt".

Councillor Ben Isitt

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

Councillor Jeremy Loveday



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ANNIVERSARY

**The Kidney Foundation of Canada**  
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7 March 2016

Mayor Lisa Helps  
and Members of Council  
Victoria City Hall,  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria BC  
V8W 1P6

***Re: Promotion of Organ Donor Registration & Kidney Transplantation***

Dear Mayor Helps & Members of Council,

Thank you for allowing our Branch Board's Medical Advisor Dr. Robin Lowry to speak before the Mayor and Council at City Hall February 25<sup>th</sup> on the subject of organ donation and kidney transplantation. We particularly thank you for scheduling his presentation early in the evening which allowed 28-month old Hailey-Ann and her mother, Kristina Cook, who are residents of Victoria, to also participate. As you are aware Hailey-Ann was born with kidney disease and will need a kidney transplant in the coming years.

Our concerns surround the approximately 3,500 people kept alive by dialysis today, many of whom ( $\approx 50\%$ ) will die before receiving a kidney transplant. While a high proportion of individuals across BC are highly supportive of organ transplantation, only about 20% have registered as potential organ donors. Indeed, BC has the lowest proportion of individuals registered as organ donors. Accordingly, the Kidney Foundation has taken on the mission of encouraging the "registration" of potential organ donors as a route to increase the availability of donor organs, including kidneys, to provide hope for people surviving on dialysis. We are asking the Mayor and Council of Victoria to submit the attached motion to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), calling upon the UBCM to encourage Mayors and Councils across British Columbia to use their leadership to save lives by promoting organ donor registration – either yes or no - in their municipalities.

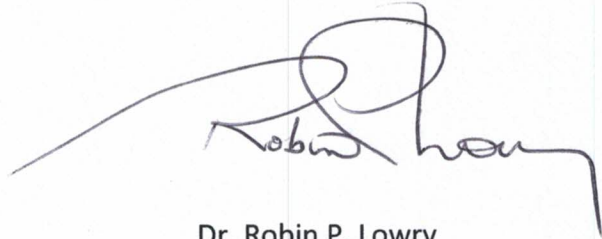
Thank you for your consideration of our request and support our efforts to promote the adoption of the attached Motion at the September 2016 meeting of the UBCM in Victoria.

If you have questions or would like clarification on any matter relating to our request, please do not hesitate to call Dr. Lowry or me at 604-736-9775.

Sincerely yours,



Karen Philp,  
Executive Director  
BC & Yukon Branch  
[kphilp@kidney.bc.ca](mailto:kphilp@kidney.bc.ca)



Dr. Robin P. Lowry  
Board Member & Medical Advisor  
BC & Yukon Branch  
[rplowry@gmail.com](mailto:rplowry@gmail.com)

## **APPENDIX: Draft motion to UBCM**

### **Saving Lives Through Organ Donation**

WHEREAS organ donation saves lives;

WHEREAS one in 10 of the citizens living in our communities is affected by kidney disease for which an organ donation is the best available option for a patient to live well and contribute fully to their family and their community;

WHEREAS BC has one of the lowest organ donor registration rates in Canada;

WHEREAS the Kidney Foundation has challenged all Mayors and Council Members to Save Lives by raising awareness for Organ Donor Registration in their communities;

AND WHEREAS Mayors and Council Members have the leadership and resolve to encourage citizens in their communities to register as organ donors,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon all Mayors and Council Members to accept the Kidney Foundation's challenge to "Save Lives Through Organ Donation" in their communities, and to work with the Foundation to increase the number of people registered as organ donors in their respective communities.