



**Council Member Report  
For the Council Meeting of March 10, 2016**

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**To:** Council

**Date:** March 4, 2016

**From:** Councillors Isitt and Loveday

**Subject:** Advocacy for Reinstatement of BC Bus Pass Benefit

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**Background:**

The Provincial budget tabled on February 16, 2016 increased income-assistance payments for people with disabilities by \$77 per month, but removed the benefit of a subsidized BC Bus Pass or Special Transportation Subsidy for recipients, resulting in a net increase of between \$11 and \$25 per month for people with disabilities who rely on public transit. Prior to this budget, the income-assistance payment for people with disabilities in British Columbia was frozen for nine years, translating into a substantial reduction in real purchasing power in light of ongoing increases in the cost of living.

The City of Victoria's Strategic Plan identifies Objective #6, Promote Social Inclusion and Community Wellness, including the ongoing action of advocacy to ensure residents have the income and supports they need to live with dignity and participate in the local economy.

It is therefore recommended that the Mayor write to the Province of British Columbia requesting reinstatement of the BC Bus Pass benefit and Special Transportation Subsidy for people with disabilities.

**Recommendation:**

That Council request that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation, copying the Premier, requesting that the BC Bus Pass benefit and Special Transportation Subsidy for people with disabilities be reinstated.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Councillor Ben Isitt

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

Councillor Jeremy Loveday