

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS

FROM: COUNCILLOR LEE

SUBJECT: **ENCOURAGING THE PROVINCE OF BC TO URGENTLY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE SUPPORT**

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval to urge the Province to provide additional mental health care support.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has expressed a commitment to supporting individuals suffering from acute drug addiction and serious mental illness;

WHEREAS mental health and addiction services in British Columbia remain chronically underfunded, despite growing public need; and

WHEREAS a lack of timely and appropriate access to mental health and addiction treatment can result in significant harm to individuals, families, and the broader community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council recognize the importance of education and prevention in this drug addiction crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council recognize the urgent need to address the challenges faced by individuals experiencing acute drug addiction and serious mental illness, and formally advocate for the Province of British Columbia to implement comprehensive, evidence-based, and adequately funded systems of care that support safety, well-being, and long-term recovery;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council call on the Province to define and prioritize the implementation of secure care measures — including, where clinically appropriate and legally justified, involuntary treatment — for individuals whose condition poses a significant risk to themselves or others, with clear safeguards to uphold individual rights, medical oversight, and accountability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council express concern that ongoing underinvestment by the provincial government has contributed directly to the

widespread lack of access to critical mental health and addiction services across British Columbia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council urge the Province to take emergency-level action to address the provincial mental health and addiction crisis, including consideration of declaring a public health emergency or enacting an equivalent coordinated response to mobilize resources, improve system integration, and protect public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Premier of British Columbia and relevant Ministers to communicate Council's position and recommendations.

BACKGROUND

The Province of British Columbia is grappling with a deepening crisis in mental health and addiction, which has significant implications for individuals, families, and communities. Chronic underfunding combined with the rising prevalence of acute drug addiction and serious mental illness has left many without timely and adequate care.

This proposed motion highlights the urgent need for system reforms to address critical gaps in mental health and addiction services.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

There are no financial impacts to the City.

DISCUSSION

The proposed motion outlined above is a direct response to the Lapu Lapu Day festival incident on April 26, 2025, which highlighted critical deficiencies in the mental health and addiction care system. The shocking nature of this event underscored the urgent need for transformative action to address gaps in care, balance individual rights with public safety, and mobilize resources through emergency measures. By advocating for secure care measures, comprehensive treatment solutions, and increased funding, this motion aims to prevent future tragedies of similar magnitude and calls for accountability and collective action to tackle these pressing public health challenges effectively.

CONCLUSION

The proposed motion represents a critical step toward addressing the mental health and addiction crisis in British Columbia. By advocating for comprehensive care, secure treatment measures, increased funding, and emergency-level action, the motion seeks to mitigate the far-reaching consequences of the current system's shortcomings. The Council's engagement with Provincial leaders through this motion underscores the

importance of collective action and accountability in tackling one of the most pressing public health issues of our time.

Respectfully submitted,

COUNCILLOR RICHARD T. LEE