

“Advocacy to BC Government to increase housing and wrap-around supports for people living with mental illness”

Moved: Councillor Daniel Fontaine

Seconded: Councillor Paul Minhas

WHEREAS it has been documented that there is a severe lack of provincial health supports in the Metro Vancouver region for individuals living with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS there is a connection between mental illness, drug addiction and homelessness and this has been manifesting itself on the streets of New Westminster and other Metro Vancouver cities; and

WHEREAS many of our homeless people in the Metro Vancouver region, including New Westminster, are living with untreated mental illnesses due to a lack of access to care; and

WHEREAS street disorder, crime and random acts of violence are being exacerbated due to a lack of mental health supports; and

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia recently indicated it was able to allocate up to \$1 billion toward the development of a new Royal BC museum; and

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has abandoned the \$1 billion upgrade and replacement of the Royal BC museum; and

WHEREAS homelessness, a lack of mental health diagnosis and treatment, and drug-related deaths are at a crisis stage; and

WHEREAS the Province of BC closed Riverview Mental Health facility in Coquitlam but the equivalent financial supports were not transferred into community-based mental health care; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has limited jurisdiction and funding to support people living with mental illness who are unhoused;

WHEREAS the New West Progressives council candidates committed to advocate with Members of the Legislative Assembly for increased mental health and housing supports for people living on the streets;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request the Mayor write to Premier David Eby and request that funding be set aside and prioritized in the 2023 Provincial Budget to begin the planning, development and construction of large-scale, community-based, modern mental health residential care facilities in the Metro Vancouver area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be sent to UBCM and all of the Mayors and councillors in the Metro Vancouver region