

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Re: Investment in Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery

WHEREAS additional mental health and substance use programs and associated funding is needed to meet the complex needs of people living with challenges in BC communities that has contributed to an unprecedented level of deaths, poverty, criminal activity, social disorder, stress on first responders and health care professionals contributing to increased pressure on hospitals;

AND WHEREAS the lack of innovative models to treat patients with severe, complex mental health and substance misuse conditions has contributed to a health care and safety crisis in communities, urban and rural, throughout British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia further increase investment into 'on demand' mental health treatment, withdrawal management and substance use programs throughout the province, that meets the diverse needs of the people suffering from severe substance misuse and mental health challenges;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED an update to "A Pathway to Hope" strategy includes a plan to fully fund and establish regional campuses of care, similar to the innovative model of Red Fish Healing Centre, to provide a safe, stable and compassionate environment for people requiring highly specialized mental health support with severe mental illness diagnoses.

BACKGROUND:

The BC Government's "[A Pathway to Hope](#)", released in 2019, sets the 10-year vision for a new system of mental health and substance use roadmap to make mental health and addictions care better for people. The plan is significantly underfunded and proposes the opening of only 500 beds of complex care housing. This is significantly short of the 4700+ mental health patients that were released into BC communities, without adequate system of supports, after the closure of Riverview Hospital. The need has never been greater for treatment centres to be located on a regional level to treat patients with severe and complex psychological disorders along with substance mis-use challenges and to provide compassionate care for those who are a harm to themselves and others.

Further investment and programs should be developed through collaboration with health professionals, Indigenous communities, police and legal organizations to consider compassionate involuntary treatment to keep our most vulnerable populations and prolific offenders in safe modernized facilities with 24/7 psychiatric and medical supports.

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