

DATE OF MEETING July 9, 2018

AUTHORED BY JOHN HORN, SOCIAL PLANNER, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL PLANNING

SUBJECT **PROVINCIAL SUPPORT FOR DAYTIME DROP-IN RESOURCE CENTRE**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council endorsement of a request for financial support from the Provincial Government for a daytime drop-in resource centre for homeless individuals in Nanaimo.

Recommendation

That Council direct Mayor McKay to send correspondence to Mr. Leonard Krog, MLA, regarding the City of Nanaimo's request for financial support from the Provincial Government for a daytime drop-in resource centre for homeless individuals in Nanaimo, and ask that this request be brought forward to an inter-ministerial forum for consideration.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 2018-MAR-19, Council approved the following motion, requesting that Staff:

“Pursue partnerships to provide a day time drop in resource centre for homeless individuals and that Council allocate \$100,000 per year towards a drop in resource centre in the 2018 budget cycle and proceed with determining potential locations for the resource centre and report back to Council.”

Social Planning Staff have engaged in discussions with several potential partners and with operators of the daytime drop-in centre in Victoria (Our Place) to determine the appropriate service and funding model for a new daytime drop-in resource centre in Nanaimo. It is clear from these discussions that a substantial amount of additional funding will be required in order to provide a safe and supportive environment that has minimal impact on surrounding properties.

At this time, there is no Provincial program or budget line assigned to provide funding for this category of service. Therefore, Staff recommend that Mayor and Council forward a request for provincial financial support to Nanaimo's Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia who represents the downtown core of Nanaimo, who will bring it forward to a provincial inter-ministerial forum on behalf of Nanaimo.

Council's approval of the proposed correspondence (see Attachment A) is the first step in this process. If the Province is receptive to this request, Staff anticipate that further negotiations will be required with Provincial ministries, including BC Housing, Island Health, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and others.

OPTIONS

1. That Council direct Mayor McKay to send correspondence to Mr. Leonard Krog, MLA, regarding the City of Nanaimo's request for financial support from the Provincial Government for a daytime drop-in resource centre for homeless individuals in Nanaimo, and ask that this request be brought forward to an inter-ministerial forum for consideration.
 - **Budget Implication:** A successful request for financial support from the Province will trigger the \$100,000 annual contribution from the City of Nanaimo.
 - **Engagement Implication:** Extensive community consultation will be required for any site proposed for a future daytime drop-in resource centre.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Provision of a daytime drop-in resource centre for the homeless aligns with the *Community Value of Social Equity*.

2. That Council provide Staff with alternate direction. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- Council has allocated annual funding of \$100,000 in support of a daytime drop-in resource centre for homeless individuals in response to current health, social, and safety issues in the downtown.
- Additional funding is needed to operate the daytime drop-in resource centre.
- Staff recommend additional funding be requested from the Provincial Government through correspondence signed by the Mayor to Nanaimo's Member of the Legislative Assembly who represents the downtown core with a request to bring it forward to an inter-ministerial forum for consideration. |

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Proposed Correspondence to Mr. Leonard Krog, Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for Nanaimo

Submitted by:

John Horn
Social Planner |

Concurrence by:

Dale Lindsay
Director, Community Development |