

DATE OF MEETING March 15, 2021

AUTHORED BY LISA BHOPALSINGH, MANAGER, COMMUNITY PLANNING

SUBJECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ISLAND HEALTH AND BC HOUSING – NAVIGATION CENTRE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide Council with an update on the status of a Memorandum of Understanding between Island Health and BC Housing relating to Nanaimo hosting a Navigation Centre for people experiencing long-term homelessness.

BACKGROUND

The Government of British Columbia included funding in its 2020 budget for two Navigation Centres to address homelessness. Each centre is intended to provide up to 60 shelter-type beds available by referral only, with wrap-around services to support and stabilize homeless individuals until longer-term housing solutions are available.

On 2020-AUG-31 Council passed the following motion:

“That Council authorize the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the City of Nanaimo’s interest in hosting a navigation centre in Nanaimo for people who are experiencing homelessness that involves an agreement with Island Health to provide an adequate level of ‘integrated clinical health supports’.”

A letter dated 2020-SEP-04 was sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as per Council’s direction (see Attachment A). On 2020-SEP-15, BC Housing formally announced that the city of Nanaimo was selected as the location of British Columbia’s second Navigation Centre. Since this time, BC Housing has proceeded with work to select a suitable site and operator for Nanaimo.

On 2021-FEB-01, Council directed Staff to provide an update on the status of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Island Health and BC Housing relating to Nanaimo hosting a Navigation Centre for people experiencing long-term homelessness.

DISCUSSION

As of the date of writing this report, BC Housing has advised that work continues with Island Health to draft an MOU to ensure adequate integrated clinical health supports for homeless individuals as part of the proposed Navigation Centre.

SUMMARY POINTS

- During September 2020, the City of Nanaimo agreed to host a Navigation Centre to support homeless individuals on the condition that there be an agreement with Island Health to provide an adequate level of 'integrated clinical health supports'.
- On 2021-FEB-01 Council requested an update on the status of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BC Housing and Island Health to address the city's condition for hosting the Navigation Centre.
- As of the date of writing this report, BC Housing has confirmed that negotiations on an MOU with Island Health are still ongoing.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: 2020-SEP-04 Navigation Centre Letter |

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

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Dale Lindsay
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