



January 31, 2024

File: 0530-003/0400-60

Via email

UBCM Member Municipalities

Dear UBCM Members:

Re: Support for Resolution

I am writing on behalf of Abbotsford City Council, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support for our proposed UBCM Resolution for additional detox beds to be added to the Fraser Health Region at the upcoming LMLGA Convention, in advance of the UBCM Convention this fall.

At the January 30, 2024 Council Meeting, City Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of BC, through their 2023 Pathway to Hope progress report committed to “eliminating gaps in the mental health care and substance use treatment system,” and to “building an integrated system of care that includes access to a full spectrum of treatment and recovery options” so that “no one falls through the cracks”¹;

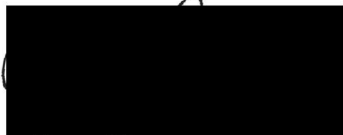
AND WHEREAS the Fraser Health Region which covers nearly two million people in 20 diverse communities from Burnaby to Fraser Canyon has only one publicly funded facility that offers rapid access to detox with a total of 24 beds for both youth and adults which results in wait times for persons wishing to enter detox;

AND WHEREAS wait times for detox beds are a known barrier for those seeking the option of treatment for addiction when they are ready;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government in order to provide more funding to open detox centres in the Fraser Health Region where they are needed and where accessing existing ones would be difficult for individuals needing the service.

We look forward to, and appreciate your support on this matter.

Sincerely,



Ross Siemens
Mayor

c. Council members
Peter Sparanese, City Manager

¹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/ministries/mental-health-addictions/a_pathway_to_hope_progress_report.pdf

Mayor
Ross Siemens

Councillors
Les Barkman
Kelly Chahal
Patricia Driessen
Simon Gibson
Dave Loewen
Patricia Ross
Dave Sidhu
Mark Warkentin