

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Esquimalt Mayor and Council
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
RECEIVED: JAN 24 2019		
Referred: <i>Anja</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

January 16, 2019

Dear Esquimalt Mayor and Council,

Victoria City Council has written to the Minister of Health, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and Minister of Finance requesting their ministries immediately increase funds for mental health and addiction services throughout the province.

The Province has committed to addressing the health crises affecting persons who are unhoused, addicted and/or live with mental and physical illnesses, and has provided increasing funding to support services to respond to the needs of these persons. The City of Victoria is also committed to using our resources to address homelessness, mental health and addictions, and we are grateful for the Province's partnership on these fronts. Unfortunately, we continue to witness overdose deaths and strains on mental health and addictions services.

We are writing today to request that Esquimalt Mayor and Council consider writing to these same ministers to ask for an increase in funds for mental health and addiction services. A copy of our letter is enclosed for your reference.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor



Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance
Parliament Building
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

January 16, 2019

Dear Minister Dix, Minister Darcy and Minister James,

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council to thank you for the Province's leadership on mental health and addictions in Greater Victoria. The recently-opened Our Place recovery centre in View Royal is a much needed community facility for individuals with multiple barriers to housing and support services, and we look forward to seeing the positive outcomes across our region.

The Province has committed to addressing the health crises affecting persons who are unhoused, addicted and/or live with mental and physical illnesses, and has provided increasing funding to support services to respond to the needs of these persons. The City of Victoria is also committed to using our resources to address homelessness, mental health and addictions, and we are grateful for the Province's partnership on these fronts.

However, as the Capital Region experiences and encourages increasing density in the residential population in its core, the need for social services continues to grow. First responders including social service providers, peers, non-profit and government health professionals, and police officers face increasing numbers of complex circumstances in which individuals are in the throes of life threatening conditions, accidents and incidents.

Unfortunately, we continue to witness overdose deaths and strains on mental health and addictions services. We therefore respectfully request that your ministries increase funds for mental health and addiction services throughout the province. Further, that BC Health Authorities be directed to use the additional resources specifically in the provision of additional and enhanced government and non-profit services and programs dealing with addictions and mental health.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Cc. Honourable John Horgan, Premier
Mayors of Municipalities in the Capital Regional District