

COUNCIL REPORT



REPORT DATE: February 13, 2018
MEETING DATE: February 13, 2018

File No. 0390-20

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Rachel Parker, Deputy Corporate Officer
Subject: AVICC Resolution: Continuation of Income Subsidy Benefits

RECOMMENDATION

- i. THAT Council receive the AVICC Resolution: Continuation of Income Subsidy Benefits report.
- ii. THAT Council submit a resolution on Continuation of Income Subsidy Benefits to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities.

SUMMARY

The deadline for resolutions to the 2018 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) convention is February 14, 2018. A resolution on "Continuation of Income Subsidy Benefits" is presented for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

At the November 27, 2017 Council meeting, it was suggested that Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee may have suggestions as to a resolution. The Committee met on January 17, 2018 and recommended

THAT Council submit a resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities requesting that the Province suspend, rather than terminate, income and subsidy benefits for individuals living in temporary housing, such as recovery programs and protective housing.

Councillor Ketler has consulted with staff at the Comox Valley Transition Society to draft the attached resolution for Council's consideration. It is reported that single people, as opposed to families, are particularly impacted by the withdrawal of the support portion of income assistance when in a residential program. The threat of the loss of support income often results in individuals spending a lesser amounts of time in residential program, against best practices.

At its January 22, 2018 meeting, Council approved a resolution on Community Social Planning for submission to AVICC.

The 2018 AVICC convention will be held from April 13-15, 2018 in Victoria. This is an opportunity for member local governments to submit resolutions that, if endorsed, would be considered at the fall Union of BC Municipalities conference.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Other than costs for members to attend the AVICC and UBCM conferences, there are no financial implications to submitting resolutions. All members of Council have indicated interested in attending both AVICC and UBCM in 2018.

OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Administration and Corporate Services staff arrange travel and other conference details for Council and staff members attending conferences. Corporate Services is also able to provide background research if needed for resolutions.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

AVICC resolution topics often relate to a Council strategic priority.

ATTACHMENTS

- Proposed resolution on community social planning

CONCURRENCE

None

OPTIONS

1. THAT Council submit a resolution on Continuation of Income Subsidy Benefits to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities.
2. Any other action deemed appropriate by Council.

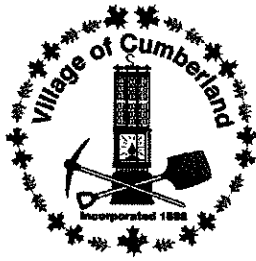
Respectfully submitted,

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Rachel Parker
Deputy Corporate Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sundance Topham', written over a horizontal line.

Sundance Topham
Chief Administrative Officer



Corporation of the Village of Cumberland

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2018 AVICC Resolution

CONTINUATION OF INCOME SUBSIDY BENEFITS

WHEREAS the support portion of Income Assistance (\$335 for a single person) is frequently used to supplement the shelter portion of Income Assistance (\$375 for a single person) to cover housing costs;

AND WHEREAS persons entering a residential recovery program maintain the shelter portion of Income Assistance but lose the support portion, often resulting in that person not being able to maintain their current housing, and putting the person at greater risk of homelessness upon exiting of the program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities AND the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction continue the support portion of Income Assistance benefits for individuals living in temporary housing, such as recovery programs and protective housing, for the duration of their recovery.