

14 July 1967.

SPECIAL REPORT.

His Worship, the Reeve,
and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen: Re: Adequacy of Social Allowance
Rates - U.C.S. Report.

A Brief on the Adequacy of Social Assistance Allowances in Greater Vancouver prepared by the Research Department of United Community Services was received by Council on 15th May 1967. Council decision was to endorse the Brief and send it to the U.B.C.M.

The purpose of this report item is to acquaint Council with changes in Social Allowances subsequent to the date of the U.C.S. Brief and to provide Council with a basis of criticism of the existing allowances and the Brief in order that members of Council may be in a knowledgeable position when the subject comes before the U.B.C.M.

Housing:

Effective 1st July 1967 a new rent scale was set by the Provincial Government. This scale is:

<u>Group:</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	\$ 45.00
2	67.50
3	75.00
4	82.50
5	90.00
6	97.50
7	105.00

These increases represented a 50% increase over the prior rates and while the new rates will be of great assistance it is not considered that they will be adequate to meet the housing competition while securing a decent standard of shelter. This opinion is stated despite the provision that individual cases of "rent over-age" can still be considered in special instances.

It is suggested that the following scale would be more realistic having regard to competition and adequacy:

Group 1 -	to a maximum of \$45.00
Group 2,3-	" " " " 95.00
Group 4 and up	" " " " 120.00

while retaining the right of special consideration in individual special instances.

It is considered necessary to have stated maximums for rental allowances. Unstated maximums would make cost control impossible.

Food: There has been no increase in food allowances since 1965 and it would appear that none is contemplated pending assessment of the effect of rental increases authorized.

The food allowance as outlined in Table 2 of the U.C.S. can be endorsed. The present food allowance is not adequate.

Clothing:

Clothing has now been amended early in 1967 wherein clothing allowance may now be issued on a requirement or needs basis and this is doing the job.

Long Term Dependent Families.

Recommendation 4(a) of the U.C.S. Brief is not understood as present regulations permit exemption for any of the reasons requested in the U.C.S. Brief and have for some years.

Long Term Dependent Families....continued)

It is considered that the matter of establishing eligibility at the intake level is one of the most important facets of social assistance and should be performed by a skilled professional. There is no quarrel with the help which can be given by skilled counselling subsequently but this should not detract from the importance of the intake process.

General:

- (a) The 1962 Report by the U.B.C.M. Welfare Committee is considered to be still quite as valid and meaningful to-day, as it was when it was written.
- (b) Hostels for single transient men are very much required.

It is considered that one should be constructed in each of the 8 Regional Welfare Districts. These would discourage movement of transients; should provide a better standard of care; should see that the Welfare dollar is conserved and administration costs contained.

- (c) There is still a need for establishment by the Provincial Government of a scientific measurement basis for the determination of workable case loads.

Once such a basis has been established the proper complements for staffing can be easily determined and substantiated.

It is known that this matter is in hand and hopefully will be implemented at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



H. W. Balfour,
MUNICIPAL MANAGER.