

ITEM 26

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 23

COUNCIL MEETING Mar. 26/73

26. Re: Health/Social Services Building
Provincial Takeover Social Services

When the Municipal Hall Committee's report was discussed on March 19, 1973, the question was raised as to the possibility of the Province taking over the administration of Social Services in the lower mainland, and should this be the case, would it be prudent for us to proceed with the new Health/Social Services building that we have proposed.

The Municipal Manager asked the Social Services Administrator to investigate this subject with Provincial authorities and the following is his response:

"This is reference to your query re the advisability of erecting a new Welfare Building in that the Victoria Regional District has assumed and is to take over the responsibility for Welfare in that area.

Contacting senior administration of the Department of Rehabilitation and Social Improvement in Victoria, I am advised the Regional takeover in the Victoria area, while felt to be a permanent plan and policy, is on a two to three year experiment, in order to research the takeover in depth and assess its value for other possible areas or regions in B. C. generally.

It will therefore be some years before further action is taken in any other Region, and it would be assumed that if this took place in the Vancouver Region, and government did take over all welfare programs here, then the government would either lease or buy new buildings or alternatively buy the municipal equity in the proposed new building.

In any event changes in this Region are to be assumed as being some years away and in light of the above, it seems to be in order to proceed with our building in question."

This is for the information of Council.