

RE: LETTER FROM THE CITY CLERK, CITY OF VANCOUVER WHICH APPEARED ON THE
AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 16TH MEETING OF COUNCIL (ITEM 4 G)
ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Medical Health Officer be adopted.

* * * * *

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1987 MARCH 16

FROM: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

SUBJECT: ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (A.I.D.S.)
VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM BURNABY

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the City of Vancouver.

REPORT

A letter was received from the City of Vancouver on 1987 March 03 requesting that other Lower Mainland Municipalities contribute on a per capita basis towards a \$100,000 fund for A.I.D.S. educational and community volunteer programs for the year 1987 July - 1988 June. The sum requested from Burnaby was \$18,800.00.

BACKGROUND:

In 1980, the first case of A.I.D.S. was diagnosed in B.C. After 1984 the incidence increased each year. If the trend continues as it has in other countries, the projected number of cases for 1990 is approximately 1300. The severity of the infection ranges from the person who harbors the virus but has no signs or symptoms of illness, to the patient whose immune system is severely compromised, allowing otherwise rare infections to cause serious and fatal disease. As of February 1987, the current reported total is 209 cases in B. C. with 105 deaths.

The only means of prevention at this time is by interrupting the spread of the virus by changing contributory behaviours, by screening blood, and by counselling high risk groups.

Since 1985 there has been a blood test for A.I.D.S. which has been effective in screening blood used for transfusions or blood products used therapeutically. Various studies are now under way of drugs which may prolong life, but there is no known cure and no vaccine.

ROLE OF VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES

In addition to Federal funding contributions to Health Care, informational pamphlets have been produced, workshops and educational programs run and money has been donated through the Canadian Public Health Association for public education programs.

The Provincial Government, in addition to funding hospital and medical care, has been involved in a variety of activities such as informational pamphlets, ads, radio spots and A.I.D.S. instructional videos. Workshops, Presentations on A.I.D.S. and Symposiums have been held with health care workers and members of the public. Antibody testing at a cost of \$200,000.00 per year is provided by the Provincial Ministry of Health, as is organ donor screening. Approximately 20,000 B.C. residents are thought to be infected by the virus. Money has been made available for research in conjunction with the Federal government. The estimated cost for the

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (A.I.D.S.)
VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM
1987 MARCH 16.....

ITEM	SUPPL.	19
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.		21
COUNCIL MEETING		87/03/23

Province of B.C. last year for the treatment of A.I.D.S. victims was 5 million dollars. The Regional district has contributed to some extent in sharing of Hospital costs. Since 1985, the Red Cross, funded by the Province, has ensured that blood used for therapeutic purposes is screened to ensure rejection of infected donations.

160

A.I.D.S. Vancouver provides information on A.I.D.S. to at risk and high risk groups and to the general public. They also provide emotional and practical support to people with A.I.D.S., their families and friends, raising funds for these purposes. They contact and work with other A.I.D.S. concerned organizations as part of the network. They began in February, 1983. The A.I.D.S. Vancouver Health Promotion Project entitled A.I.D.S./ARC Public Awareness and Support is funded by the Federal and City Governments for two years from July 1985 to July 1987. A.I.D.S. Vancouver is a registered non-profit charitable society.

Although outlying Hospitals play their part, the majority of A.I.D.S. victims are treated mainly in one Vancouver Hospital and the majority of cases at this time reside in Vancouver, although they may have been recent residents of other Municipalities. There is no way of knowing how many Burnaby residents, stricken by this disease, have moved to the city in search of services which are more accessible and acceptable to them, given the nature of the illness.

EDUCATION

Despite tremendous efforts on the part of health researchers and others, there is still much to be learned about A.I.D.S. There is no cure and no vaccine yet available.

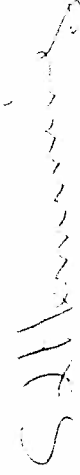
Prevention is urgent under such circumstances. Information programs are vital, despite recognizing that effecting behaviour changes is difficult. The Provincial Government has task forces now working on health education programs for schools. In Burnaby, the School District officials are reviewing available information and planning how to present it most appropriately for school age children. The Health Department has been involved in providing information to the public as well as some care to patients in the Home Nursing Care program. We will continue to cooperate with staff of the Burnaby School Board and the Ministry of Health, both in educational programs and direct care.

CONCLUSION

There are many problems consequent to infection with the A.I.D.S. virus, and not only for the victims. Employers, fellow workers, families, educators, those who supply services both to adults and to children become involved. As the City of Vancouver already has had to tackle many of these issues, so will Burnaby sooner or later.

To address the specific request from the city, for \$18,000 towards a fund for A.I.D.S. educational and community volunteer programs it is recommended that the Municipality does not contribute. Staff will pursue other ways of ensuring that those vital education programs take place not only in Vancouver but wherever needed. Burnaby needs to take a more active role in efforts to prevent the disease, and in assisting residents who now seek services in Vancouver.

Staff will continue to review what impact an increase in the number of cases of A.I.D.S. would have on Burnaby services.



S.L. Hemming, M.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.P. (C)
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

SLH:mk

cc: Director Administrative &
Community Services