

CITY OF BURNABY

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: HEALTH CARE RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council adopt the attached resolution regarding the Romanow Commission Report and related health care concerns.

REPORT

Council, at the 'Open' Council meeting held on 2003 January 13, received a presentation from Ms. Kathy Bonitz and Ms. Joy Parr regarding the Romanow Commission Report and the future of health care in Canada. The presentation concluded with a request that Council adopt a resolution of support for the Romanow Commission recommendations. Council referred the delegation's comments and suggestions to the Executive Committee for consideration.

The Executive Committee of Council, at its 'Open' meeting held on 2003 March 10, received and adopted the attached resolution expressing general support for the proposals contained in the Romanow Report noting that they provide the framework for transforming medicare into a truly national, more comprehensive, sustainable, responsive and accountable system.

Respectively submitted,

Councillor N.M. Volkow,
Chair

Councillor D.G. Evans,
Member

Councillor C. Redman,
Member

<p>CC: -CITY MANAGER -DIRECTOR PLNG & BLDG</p>

RE: STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE

Whereas the Federal Government significantly reduced transfer payments to the provinces for health care and social programs in the early 1990s; and

Whereas many provincial governments have initiated their own restrictions to the health system, resulting in the de-listing of outpatient services, hospital closures, layoffs, and tighter eligibility requirements for services such as home care and pharmacare; and

Whereas municipalities, being the level of government closest to the people, have been hearing strong concerns from local residents about cuts to the health system and have faced increasing pressure to fill the resulting gaps through such means as funding of non-profit health service providers and purchase of hospitals threatened with closure; and

Whereas, despite the challenges being faced, the Romanow Commission report revealed that the health outcomes of the Canadian system are amongst the best in the world and the majority of Canadians who use the system are satisfied with the quality and standards of care they receive;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Burnaby inform the Governments of Canada and British Columbia of its general support for the proposals of the Romanow Commission Report, believing they provide the framework for transforming medicare into a truly national, more comprehensive, sustainable, responsive, and accountable system;

Be it further resolved that the City of Burnaby extends its support for the 2003 First Minister's Accord on Health Care Renewal and urges the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to continue to cooperate and devote sufficient resources to renew and sustain the Canadian health care system;

Be it further resolved that the City of Burnaby, while acknowledging the need for managing resources efficiently, expresses its strong concern to the Provincial Government and Fraser Health Authority regarding the short and long term implications of the extensive cuts being made to the health system - notably closure of hospitals and continuing care facilities, restriction of coverage for home care and pharmacare programs, and the trend towards staff layoffs and the privatization of services;

Be it further resolved that the City of Burnaby urges the Provincial Government and its respective Health Authorities to adopt a policy of meaningful consultation with municipalities on proposed changes to the health system, ensuring that the full impacts on local residents and municipal governments are carefully considered before changes - particularly negative changes - are introduced; and

Be it further resolved that the City of Burnaby requests the Lower Mainland Municipal Association to adopt a resolution similar to the one contained herein, advancing it for endorsement by the Union of BC Municipalities.