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**SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: UBCM RESOLUTIONS FOR SENIORS CARE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT Council endorse the resolutions and forward same to the UBCM for consideration at the 2011 UBCM convention.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, #1400 207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC.

**REPORT**

At the Social Issues Committee 'Open' meeting held on 2011 May 26, Ms. Marcy Cohen, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, BC Office, appeared as a delegation to raise awareness about the need for a stronger system of community-based seniors care.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives is currently promoting a documentary film to raise awareness and community-level dialogue regarding the best care for seniors as they age and die. The film, entitled 'The Remaining Light', also brings attention to the BC Ombudsperson's province-wide investigation into seniors care. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has also collaborated with seniors' services and advocacy groups around the Province, and with United Way-supported community seniors planning tables in the Lower Mainland.

The delegation requested that the Social Issues Committee and Council support the following resolutions:

**First Resolution – Community-Based Seniors Care**

WHEREAS access to community-based care for BC's growing seniors population is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, and controlling cost pressures on the broader health care system;

AND WHEREAS BC's Ombudsperson is nearing completion of an investigation into systemic issues in seniors care, and a number of independent reports and studies (including from the BC Medical Association and the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research) document problems in timely access to appropriate care and inadequate coordination of services;

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors  
From: Social Issues Committee  
Re: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
UBCM Resolutions for Seniors Care  
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to significantly enhance BC's system of community-based seniors care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors to age and die with dignity.

**Second Resolution – Provincial Funding for Enhanced Seniors Programs**

WHEREAS a significant capacity for maintaining the health and wellbeing of seniors exists at the municipal level through neighbourhood houses, seniors centres and community centres;

AND WHEREAS limited funding for these services means they cannot meet the need for outreach programming to isolated seniors, information services on locally available social and health programs for seniors, social programming to keep seniors active and connected;

BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors outreach and health preventions programs (including information services, social networking, and age-appropriate exercise programs) and to support better coordination among existing services.

Arising from discussion, the Committee recommended that Council endorse the resolutions and forward same to the UBCM for consideration at the 2011 UBCM convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Paul McDonell  
Chair

Councillor Anne Kang  
Vice Chair

Councillor Pietro Calendino  
Member

Copied: City Manager Director Planning and Building
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