

Dear Mayor Crompton and Council,

Housing is Healthcare is an advocacy initiative for patients, specifically transplant recipients, who are required to move to Vancouver for life-saving care. It is also a resolution we are seeking your support on. In a city with a housing crisis and hotel shortage, this can be an unfathomable task for those residing outside of the city, to find somewhere to stay for 3 months or longer, furnished, and immediately following the “call” that a transplant is available. It is crucial to consider new housing opportunities and create an inventory specifically proximate to our major health centres. Ideally additional support can be considered for patients as part of their transplant plan to offset the \$35k+ they are currently expected to afford themselves.

Even within the Lower Mainland, there are patients who regularly struggle to access hospital-adjacent care due to transportation and housing logistics. The transplant clinic has specific mandates regarding the distance patients can be from the hospital during their recovery period and this narrows the scope drastically when it comes to accommodation.

Working with health advocates, including remote rural areas of BC, Vancouver has identified that this is an emergent and critical problem for equitable delivery of healthcare for all British Columbians. If we are funneling patients into Vancouver for critical care from across the province, we need to provide housing accordingly to establish a fair playing field for those accessing care. Perhaps you saw Chris Unrau in the news lately, who withheld her placement on the transplant wait list due to these out-of-pocket costs associated with relocating to Vancouver. It gained the attention of the Premier, who invited her to Victoria to hear her story. We look to UBCM as a crucial opportunity to continue our momentum and gain the support of the municipalities province wide.

There are ways to solve patient housing, but we need the attention and interest of the entire province and councils representing our civilians to enforce change. Thank you for taking the time to consider the **Housing is Healthcare** resolution. Please see below a link to the latest CTV coverage and attached find the resolution passed by Vancouver on February 7. Let me know if you have any questions.

Eby meets with B.C. patient who took herself off transplant list | CTV News

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Podewils

Lung Transplant Housing Support

Transplant Support BC

(312) 833-1153

Final motion as amended:

A2. Housing is Healthcare

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT Council direct staff to share with relevant authorities in the Provincial Ministries of Health and Housing respectively, the substance of this motion and City's willingness to consider the needs of British Columbians requiring longer-term accommodations for specialized medical treatment, in our planning and permitting processes, especially in transit oriented areas adjacent and proximate to major medical centres including BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital and the new St. Paul's Campus.
- B. FURTHER THAT Council request the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Housing, expressing the City of Vancouver's willingness to help support the creation of this important longer term medical housing stock, provided the provincial government has an interest in funding, and administering housing of this nature.
- C. AND FURTHER THAT the following be submitted to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association for consideration as a resolution at the Union of BC Municipalities 2024 Convention, with the above whereas clauses submitted as background:

Housing is Healthcare

WHEREAS every year hundreds of British Columbians are diagnosed with chronic conditions and diseases that necessitate specialized medical treatment requiring long term stays near but not in hospital, there are disparities in health outcomes between rural and urban patients;

AND WHEREAS residents of rural and remote communities in British Columbia requiring specialized medical treatment for complex care in urban centres face significant challenges including high travel and accommodation costs, the psychosocial impacts of healthcare away from home and community, the loss of income during treatment period, and increasingly limited availability of affordable accommodations, hotel rooms, or short term rentals;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia, reflected in its 2024 mandate, is committed to both improved health care for British Columbians when they need it, and attainable and affordable housing to deliver more homes for people faster:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM advocate for the Provincial Government of British Columbia to alleviate the financial and logistical burdens associated with seeking specialized medical care far from home by developing and implementing comprehensive policies and programs to assist

patients needing to travel for healthcare, and ensure that patients have access to affordable, comfortable, and convenient accommodations.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province consider and implement ways to deliver and dedicate subsidized accommodations in and adjacent to large urban health centres specifically purposed for longer term specialized medical treatment.