

Page 01 to/à Page 02

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Housing/Homelessness

Issue: Working with the Ministers of Housing and Mental Health & Addictions, we will develop a province-wide homelessness action plan.

s.13

Basic Income Pilot

Issue: Both the Confidence and Supply Agreement and Mandate Letter establish the expectation to develop a basic income pilot to determine whether giving people a basic income is an effective way to reduce poverty, improve health, housing and employment.

s.13

Rate Increases

Issue: The government increased income and disability assistance rates by \$100 per month.

s.13

Bus Pass

Issue: The government will ensure all recipients of Persons with Disabilities assistance have access to the transportation supports they need, including an annual bus pass for those who want one, starting January 1, 2018.

s.13

Earnings Exemptions

Issue: The government will increase the earnings exemptions for people on income and disability assistance by \$200 per month, starting January 1, 2018.

s.13

Office Budget Increase

s.13

Clips from "B.C.'s poor unable to bridge income gap" - By Cheryl Chan
Vancouver Sun - Thursday, September 14, 2017 Page A07

According to Statistics Canada "low-income" levels in 2015

- 15.5% of the B.C. population (694,960 people)
- 15.4% in 2005

B.C.'s GDP per capita posted a 12.2% increase over the same 10 years

"You have a booming economy and the poverty rate is not budging at all. What this shows is that economic growth and job creation alone are not enough to tackle poverty." - Igluka Ivanova of the CCPA

Statistics Canada uses a measurement called the low-income measure after tax, which identifies a household as low income if its income is less than half the median income of all households adjusted by family size.

The stagnant rate in B.C. also stands in stark contrast to the growth of median household income, which rose by more than 12% in B.C.

Increase in low-income levels for youth aged 18 to 24

- 18.2% in 2005
- 19.6% in 2015

Seniors aged 65 and older

- 12% in 2005
- 15% in 2015

In Metro Vancouver

- 16.5% fell into low income
- Richmond: 22% (household income is \$65,241)
- Burnaby: 21%
- Vancouver: 19%

National Rate

- 14.2%

Accomplishments

Background:

- BC's NDP government was sworn in on July 18, 2017.
- This is a list of accomplishments achieved since that time.

s.13

Accomplishments

Background:

- BC's NDP government was sworn in on July 18, 2017.
- This is a list of accomplishments achieved since that time.

s.13

“Clone” Speech Highlights

Highlights:

- The previous government’s June Throne Speech resembled the BCNDP platform more closely than their own election platform.
- Since voting unanimously to pass the Throne Speech, the Opposition has criticized a number of policies it contained.

Quotes:

On electoral reform:

- “With the confidence of this house, your government will enable a third referendum on electoral reform. It will require extensive public consultation to develop a clear question, and will ensure rural representation in the legislature is protected.”

On working across party lines:

- “British Columbians want a stable government, and in sending us this result they expect us to listen and find a way to work together. They expect us to collaborate, while respecting the dignity, rules, and traditions that govern our constitutional monarchy, our democracy, and this legislature.”

On MSP elimination:

- “All parties in this House share the view that MSP should be eliminated. Your government supports a review that considers how this can be done as soon as possible.”

On ridesharing:

- “While all parties in this legislature publicly stated their support for ride sharing in the recent election, your government has heard the message that legitimate implementation concerns remain. Any proposed legislation will be referred to an all-party committee for extensive consultation with the public and stakeholders, in particular regarding boundaries and insurance.”

On eliminating tolls:

- “Your government has heard the concerns of people who are served by tolled provincial highway infrastructure... With the confidence of this house, your government will move to eliminate tolls on the Port Mann Bridge as quickly as possible.”

On reviewing the Massey:

- “An expanded crossing between Richmond and Delta is essential to reducing congestion, ensuring safety, and providing for future light rail. Recognizing concerns about the design, your government will listen and work collaboratively to move this project forward.”

Commitments from the previous government's throne speech:

- Create a new Minister of State for mental health and addictions.
- Place one person in each school trained to identify mental health issues, and who can refer kids to resources.
- Review MSP to consider how it can be eliminated as soon as possible.
- Eliminate tolls on the Port Mann and Golden Ears Bridges.
- Match federal funding for the Mayors Transit Plan.
- Provide fare relief to ferry-dependent communities.
- Consult with the public and stakeholders on ridesharing, and refer any legislation to an all-party committee.
- Review the funding formula for school districts.
- Invest in seismic upgrades and school construction, including funding for playgrounds.
- Fully fund Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning programs.
- Promised free post-secondary education for kids aging out of care.
- Increase monthly social assistance rates by \$100.
- Raise carbon tax \$5/tonne per year from 2019 to 2022 to meet the federal mandate of \$50/tonne.
- Take the Climate Leadership team advice to protect workers and businesses.
- Hire more conservation officers.
- Hold a referendum on proportional representation.
- Ban corporate, union, third party, and out of province donations to political parties.
- Put in place a limit on political donations from individuals.
- Ban funding from federal to provincial political parties.
- Ban loans to parties from organizations other than chartered banks and credit unions.
- Apply provincial electoral reforms to municipal elections.
- Strengthen lobbyist legislation and regulations.
- Consider moving the fixed election date to the fall.
- Continue economic stability dividend.
- Develop a poverty reduction strategy that focuses on children.
- Promised \$1 billion over four years to create new child care spaces including:
 - 60,000 new spaces over 4 years;

- Covering an additional 150,000 children with full or partial childcare subsidies; and
- Funding up to 4,000 new early childhood educators with \$10 million in grants and bursaries.
- Explore co-location of childcare spaces in elementary schools.
- Double funding for the BC Arts Council.
- End the fixed-term lease loophole, and protect tenants' rights when landlords make improvements to rentals.

BC Coroner's Report on Overdose Deaths

Highlights:

- On Nov. 9, the BC Coroner released a report on overdose deaths from January to September 2017. There were 80 deaths in September (2.7 deaths/day), which is a 31% increase year over year.
- Total deaths from January to September are up over 80% to 1,103 this year compared to 607 deaths in 2016.
- Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the highest number of deaths. Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the highest rate of deaths.
- The Coroner will also show a correlation between income assistance payment days, generally the last Wednesday of the month, and a spike in overdose deaths.

s.13

Background:

- The BC Coroner released a report on Nov. 9 that summarizes all unintentional overdose deaths in BC between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 2017.
- There were 80 suspected drug overdose deaths in September 2017. This is a 31% increase over the number of death occurring in September 2016 (61).
- The number of illicit drug overdose deaths in September 2017 (80) equates to about 2.7 deaths per day for the month.
- In 2017, individuals aged 19-59 have accounted 91% of illicit drug overdose deaths. Males accounted for 83% of all suspected illicit drug overdose deaths over the same period.
- The three townships experiencing the highest number of illicit drug overdoses in 2017 to date are Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria.
- Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority have had the highest number of illicit drug overdose deaths (364 and 334 deaths, respectively) to date in 2017, making up 63% of all illicit drug overdose deaths during this period.
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority has the highest rate of illicit drug overdose deaths (37.8 deaths per 100,000 individuals) and also experienced the largest increase in rate from 2016 (59% increase) among all the health authorities. Overall, the rate of illicit drug overdose deaths in BC increased 49% to 30.6 deaths per 100,000 individuals from the 2016 year-end rate of 20.6 deaths per 100,000 individuals.
- Rates of illicit drug overdose deaths are highest in Vancouver, Okanagan, Fraser East, Central Vancouver Island, and North Vancouver Island Health Services Delivery Areas.
- All health authorities saw a decline in the number of illicit drug overdose deaths in September 2017 compared to August 2017.
- 88.1% of illicit drug overdose deaths occurred inside (58.5% private residences, 29.6% other inside locations) and 11.4% occurred outside in vehicles, sidewalks, streets, parks, etc.
- There were no deaths at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites.
- This figure illustrates the comparison of illicit drug overdose deaths to other common causes of unnatural deaths in 2016.
- More fatal overdoses occurred during the days following income assistance payment (Wed-Sun) than all other days in 2017.
- Fentanyl was detected in 83% of overdose deaths to date in 2017, up from 68% in 2016.

ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Date: November 7, 2017

Minister: Hon. Shane Simpson

**Lakeview Mill Fire,
Williams Lake**

s.13

BACKGROUND:

On Friday, November 3, 2017 a fire started at the Lakeview Mill in Williams Lake. The mill employees approximately 150 people and is owned by Tolko.

Some of the employees will return to work at the planer part of the mill. Due to fire damage the sawmill part of the mill will remain shut down until April – which will affect approximately 80 employees.

WorkBC Employment Service Centre (ESC) staff are set up to support employees when a major job loss such as this occurs in a community.

While it is still too soon to determine what supports will be necessary for the affected workers, the local WorkBC staff have connected with Tolko to let them know what services they can provide. (See list of services below).

WorkBC has also offered to tailor services to those workers directly or indirectly affected, increase centre hours to accommodate Preliminary Needs Assessments, and work with the local Service Canada office to arrange EI information sessions as needed.

Over the next few days/weeks:

- Forests, Lands and Natural Resources (FLNRO) Community Transition Group, along with staff from ELMSD and WorkBC will be providing support as needed. They will monitor needs based on input from the community and the Mayor and assess what supports will be needed to help the 80+ workers affected by the mill's closure.
- WorkBC will offer dedicated information sessions on their services to affected workers.

WorkBC services and supports range from independent self-serve services to intensive case management and are provided based on individual client needs.

All available services and supports will be provided to affected employees as they are eligible. Certain services are only available to EI recipients as per federal requirements under the LMDA (e.g. wage subsidy, skills training).

WorkBC Services:

The local ESC can provide a wide range of supports to help affected employees including:

- Resume preparation
- Assistance with job searches
- Employment counselling and support
- Interview preparation
- Employment related workshops
- Employment needs assessments
- Financial needs assessments
- Short-term certification
- Assistive technology & devices
- Skills training (funding for tuition and living supports)
- Living supports during apprentice training
- Preparation for self-employment
- Customized employment
- Wage subsidy
- Job development
- Job coaching
- Follow-up support for job maintenance & retention

Local Elections Campaign Financing Act Amendments

We are making amendments to the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* that will take big money out of local politics by banning corporate and union donations, putting reasonable limits on individual contributions, and banning out-of-province donations at the local level.

When passed, the legislation will set contribution limits at \$1,200 for the election campaign of a candidate or elector organization per donor per year. This means that one person's total contributions to the election campaign for an elector organization and all of its endorsed candidates cannot exceed \$1,200 per year. That also means that one person's total contributions to the election campaign of an independent candidate cannot exceed \$1,200 per year. The law also provides for the contribution limit to be set by regulation so that it can be changed at a later date, should there be a desire to do so - for example, for the 2022 elections.

Contributions from individuals will be restricted to those who reside in B.C. and who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Donations from any corporation, union or other organization to local candidates, elector organizations, and third-party advertisers will be prohibited.

By making these changes now, they will be in place in time for the start of the election period (January 1, 2018) for the next general local elections. Having sufficient time for all campaign participants to be educated about the rules was important to the Union of BC Municipalities at their convention this fall. Once this legislation is passed, the new rules will be applied retroactively to October 31, 2017, the day after the First Reading of the bill.

To allow candidates to transition to the new campaign financing framework, any contributions allowed under the former rules and received before October 31, 2017 may be used for the 2018 general local elections. However, contributions received on or after October 31, 2017 will be subject to the new rules.

Released in Oct. 2017, an Insights West poll showed 86% of respondents supporting rules for municipal elections in line with the Province's new regulations on campaign finance.

s.13

Page 29

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty
Reduction

Date: October 16, 2017

Minister: Hon. Shane Simpson

SDPR / SBC Offices – Co-Location and Integration

s.13,s.17

BACKGROUND:

- As of October 2017, the government provides in-person services at 83 locations around B.C. through:
 - 47 stand-alone SDPR offices, and
 - 36 Service BC Offices, providing various levels of SDPR services.
- Integrating services:
 - reduces wait times for SDPR clients,
 - extends service hours by one hour per day and
 - improves staff retention in small rural communities.

In the integrated service model:

- Service BC staff manage all client enquiries at service counters and
- SDPR staff complete critical service requests (intakes, supplements, supports, etc.).

SDPR – SBC Office Count – October 16, 2017

SDPR Offices – Vancouver Island	SBC Offices providing SDPR services
1. Courtenay 2. Campbell River 3. Duncan 4. Nanaimo Labiux 5. Nanaimo Richards 6. Port Alberni 7. Powell River 8. Victoria Vefra	1. Ganges 2. Port Hardy 3. Ucluelet 4. Victoria Gateway
SDPR Offices – Vancouver/ Richmond/ North Vancouver	SBC Offices providing SDPR services
9. Vancouver Dockside 10. Vancouver Grandview 11. Vancouver Kiwassa 12. Vancouver Mountainview 13. Vancouver Strathcona 14. Vancouver West End 15. Sechelt 16. North Vancouver 17. Richmond	5. Squamish
SDPR Offices – Fraser	SBC Offices providing SDPR services
18. Burnaby 19. New West 20. Port Coquitlam 21. Surrey Fleetwood 22. Surrey North 23. Surrey Park Place 24. Abbotsford 25. Langley 26. Chilliwack 27. Hope 28. Maple Ridge 29. Mission	
SDPR Offices – Interior	SBC Offices providing SDPR services
30. Cranbrook 31. Kamloops Seymour 32. Kamloops Sydney 33. Kelowna 34. West Bank 35. Merritt 36. Nelson 37. Oliver 38. Penticton 39. Salmon Arm 40. Trail 41. Vernon 42. Williams Lake 43. Quesnel	6. 100 Mile House 7. Ashcroft 8. Bella Coola 9. Clinton 10. Creston 11. Fernie 12. Princeton 13. Golden 14. Grand Forks 15. Invermere 16. Lillooet 17. Nakusp
SDPR Offices – North	SBC Offices providing SDPR services
44. Prince George 45. Prince Rupert 46. Terrace 47. Masset	18. Mackenzie 19. Kitimat 20. Hazelton 21. Houston 22. Fort Nelson 23. Fort St. James 24. Dease Lake 25. Atlin 26. Burns Lake 27. Chetwynd 28. Queen Charlotte City 29. Revelstoke 30. Sparwood 31. Stewart 32. Valemont 33. Vanderhoof 34. Dawson Creek 35. Fort St. John 36. Smithers

*NOTE: Masset is the only SDPR office that provides SBC services.

ISSUES NOTE

**Ministry of Social Development and Poverty
Reduction**

Date: October X, 2017

Minister: Hon. Shane Simpson

SDPR / SBC Offices – Co-Location and Integration

s.13,s.17

BACKGROUND:

- As of October 2017, the government provides in-person services at 83 locations around B.C. through:
 - 47 stand-alone SDPR offices, and
 - 36 Service BC Offices, providing various levels of SDPR services.
- Integrating services:
 - reduces wait times for SDPR clients,
 - extends service hours by one hour per day and
 - improves staff retention in small rural communities.

In the integrated service model:

- Service BC staff manage all client enquiries at service counters and
- SDPR staff complete critical service requests (intakes, supplements, supports, etc.).

s.13,s.17

SDPR – SBC Office Count – October 16, 2017

SDPR Offices – Vancouver Island 1. Courtenay 2. Campbell River 3. Duncan 4. Nanaimo Labiueux 5. Nanaimo Richards 6. Port Alberni 7. Powell River 8. Victoria Vefra	SBC Offices providing SDPR services 1. Ganges 2. Port Hardy 3. Ucluelet 4. Victoria Gateway
SDPR Offices – Vancouver/ Richmond/ North Vancouver 9. Vancouver Docksides 10. Vancouver Grandview 11. Vancouver Kiwassa 12. Vancouver Mountainview 13. Vancouver Strathcona 14. Vancouver West End 15. Sechelt 16. North Vancouver 17. Richmond	SBC Offices providing SDPR services 5. Squamish
SDPR Offices - Fraser 18. Burnaby 19. New West 20. Port Coquitlam 21. Surrey Fleetwood 22. Surrey North 23. Surrey Park Place 24. Abbotsford 25. Langley 26. Chilliwack 27. Hope 28. Maple Ridge 29. Mission	SBC Offices providing SDPR services
SDPR Offices - Interior 30. Cranbrook 31. Kamloops Seymour 32. Kamloops Sydney 33. Kelowna 34. West Bank 35. Merritt 36. Nelson 37. Oliver 38. Penticton 39. Salmon Arm 40. Trail 41. Vernon 42. Williams Lake 43. Quesnel	SBC Offices providing SDPR services 6. 100 Mile House 7. Ashcroft 8. Bella Coola 9. Clinton 10. Creston 11. Fernie 12. Princeton 13. Golden 14. Grand Forks 15. Invermere 16. Lillooet 17. Nakusp
SDPR Offices – North 44. Prince George 45. Prince Rupert 46. Terrace 47. Masset	SBC Offices providing SDPR services 18. Mackenzie 19. Kitimat 20. Hazelton 21. Houston 22. Fort Nelson 23. Fort St. James 24. Dease Lake 25. Atlin 26. Burns Lake 27. Chetwynd 28. Queen Charlotte City 29. Revelstoke 30. Sparwood 31. Stewart 32. Valemont 33. Vanderhoof 34. Dawson Creek 35. Fort St. John 36. Smithers

*NOTE: Masset is the only SDPR office that provides SBC services.

Service BC Colocation & Integration

Overview

- Number of Service BC locations across BC – 62
- Number of Languages spoken in offices – 10+
- Number of enquires handled annually – 615, 500
- Number of partner agencies – 38

History of Partnership

- SDPR & SBC began this process in 2005
- By 2012, number of the partnerships grew to 30 small, rural communities
- In 2014, SDPR and SBC targeted service delivery integrations in communities where both ministries had an office and SDPR had between 500-1000 cases

Timeline

- 2005-2012
 - We had a handful co-location offices - Port Hardy, Grand Forks, Princeton
- 2012
 - Increased more co-location offices - Golden, Kitimat and won a premiers award for Cross Government Integration for the initiative (deleted Dawson Creek etc. from this section)
- 2013
 - Joint planning with Service BC to look at service delivery integrations in small communities where both SDPR and SBC had an office and the lease renewal could be aligned
- 2014/15
 - Implemented service delivery integrations in Grand Forks, 100 Mile House, Fort St. John and Dawson Creek
- 2016-17
 - Implemented service delivery integrations in Smithers

s.13,s.17

Service BC Overview

- Number of Service BC locations across BC – 62
- Number of Languages spoken in offices – 10+
- Number of enquires handled annually – 615, 500
- Number of partner agencies – 38

History of Partnership

- SDPR & SBC began this process in 2005
- By 2012, number of the partnerships grew to 30 small, rural communities
- In 2014, SDPR and SBC targeted service delivery integrations in communities where both ministries had an office and SDPR had between 500-1000 cases

ISSUES NOTE

**Ministry of Social Development and Poverty
Reduction**

Date: Oct. 18, 2017

Minister: Hon. Shane Simpson

Deceased Client

Ministers Recommended messages

s.13

Background:

s.22

Ian Harrower CRSQ

DATE: Oct 19, 2017

REF. #:

PERSONS INVOLVED:

Client Name: James Robert Gordon

Case #: 1-20141223953 SR 1-48701219391

MLA : (list MLA and Constituency Assistant – CA)

ISSUES NOTE

**Ministry of Social Development and Poverty
Reduction**

Date: Oct. 18, 2017

Minister: Hon. Shane Simpson

Deceased Client

s.13

Background:

s.22

ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty
Reduction

Date: Oct. 16, 2017

Minister: Hon. Shane Simpson

**Denied funding by
WorkBC**

s.13

ISSUES NOTE**Ministry of Social Development and Poverty
Reduction****Date: August 21, 2017****Minister: Hon. Shane Simpson**

s.22

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

BACKGROUND:

s.22

ISSUE:

Therapeutic Communities as an approach to addressing homelessness in British Columbia

BACKGROUND:

What Is a Therapeutic Community?

The therapeutic community is a model of long-term residential addiction treatment. Therapeutic communities typically involve: an environment separate from drug-related activities; structured community activities; peer and professional help; work as therapy; a planned duration of stay; and continuity of care.

Therapeutic community models claim participants develop life and behavioural skills as well as improved physical and emotional health. The model is based on the fundamental principle of self-help; implying the individual is responsible for ensuring change.

Italy's San Patrignano, founded in 1978, is the best known therapeutic community for individuals with addictions. The community is self-sustaining, managing 56 industry clusters and co-operatives which provide 60-70 % of the community's operating expenses.

What does the evidence show?

San Patrignano is viewed as an example of a successful therapeutic community, with a 72% recovery rate. However, this statistic is based on a study using a non-representative sample of therapeutic community participants¹. Critics have pointed out that the authors have admitted the study was not designed as a program evaluation and that it did not include a representative sample.

A long-term study of drug treatment outcomes confirm that those who complete treatment in a therapeutic community have lower levels of drug use, criminal behaviour, unemployment and depression than they had before treatment². The studies indicate that positive outcomes are strongly related to completing the treatment program.

As with other treatment models, therapeutic community drop-out rates are high, in most cases, 50% within the first month³. Approximately 60% of those remaining complete the program, one-third of whom will relapse. This leaves a success rate of 20%, similar to standard treatment models. However, research also demonstrates that participation under 90-days still show positive outcomes, including decreased drug use and criminal activity⁴.

¹ Arnano, Dr. (1995). The San Patrignano Community in *Drug Policy and Ideology*.

² Hanson, G.R. (2002). Therapeutic Community. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Research Report Series.

³ Social Planning Department, City of Vancouver and The John Volken Society. (2002). The Therapeutic Community Treatment Model: Overview and Analysis of Key Themes and Issues.

⁴ Simpson, D.D.; Joe, G.W. & Brown, B.S. (1997). Treatment retention and follow-up outcomes in the Drug Abuse Treatment Outcome Study (DATOS). *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* 11:294-307.

Individuals with co-occurring disorders are considered the most difficult to treat and traditional therapeutic communities must be modified to successfully treat this population. A history of suicide attempts or serious mental illness generally deems a potential resident inadmissible⁵.

According to a recent study, approximately one-third of street homeless persons suffer from mental illness, however, estimates range from 25% - 50% depending on the definitions of mental illness and homelessness used⁶. While those with mental illness are not the majority of the homeless population, they are the most visible and utilize the most health, corrections and social service resources.

BC Examples

New Hope Recovery Society: Baldy Hughes Therapeutic Community

The New Hope Recovery Society's Baldy Hughes Therapeutic Community near Prince George opened in January 2008 with eight residents. Over 100 residents are expected to enrol in the three-year program by the end of 2008; 500 in the next three years. Over the course of their stay, residents work to overcome their addictions through structured treatment, support networks, education and vocational training programs such as carpentry and welding.

The New Hope Business Plan (produced by Queens University MBA students) identifies the need for one clinical position - a nurse responsible for an assessment of residents' medical conditions, a recovery plan, counselling residents and organizing workshops. The business plan does not request funding for a nurse and it is assumed this position will be recruited and funded by New Hope.

\$3.6 million in provincial funds have been requested for capital costs. However, New Hope's business case is based on the premise that they function independent of government dollars. The Society has a five-year lease on the 160-acre site at \$250,000/year and they hope to purchase the site after the third year.

Residents receiving income assistance from the province pay \$610/month towards room and board. Residents are currently working to renovate and rebuild the community and later will sell goods (such as furniture, home accessories and artistic pieces) and services to help make the community self-sustaining. Other industries being considered include agriculture and forestry.

Creating Homefulness Society: Woodwynn Farms Therapeutic Community

Richard Leblanc, founder and CEO of the Creating Homefulness Society (CHS) based in Victoria, has proposed to offer homeless adults structured integration of housing, drug and alcohol treatment, counselling and medical services, life skills and vocational skills training at an annual operating cost of \$18,000 per person. Their goal is to reintegrate previously homeless individuals back into society.

⁵ Social Planning Department, City of Vancouver and The John Volken Society, 2002.

⁶ Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction. (2007). *Housing Supports for Adults with Severe Addictions and/or Mental Illness in BC*.

The first two phases of the project involve: the development of a permanent 100-bed Therapeutic Work Community (Woodwynn Farms) to be launched April 2008; and a downtown program to provide 6-month vocational training to be launched April 2009.

Mr. Leblanc's Development Plan proposes the provincial government contribute:

- 1) 50% of the operating costs beginning in the second year (\$1.2 million/year); and
- 2) \$12.1 million in capital costs to purchase and renovate Woodwynn Farms.

The CHS would target three populations: individuals less entrenched in street life and therefore more likely to succeed in employment training; individuals who have served time in the corrections system who have been unable to reintegrate successfully; and those involved in the sex trade. They foresee reintegrating over 1500 previously homeless individuals in the first seven years. The CHS states their plan is complementary to the Victoria Mayor's Task Force which plans to target the most challenging homeless population.

The CHS Development Plan projects that within ten years, homelessness in Victoria would be reduced to almost zero, should their model be adopted. Their projections are based on the following assumptions:

- There are currently 1500 homeless individuals in Victoria, increasing at a rate of 200 individuals per year;
- The CHS would achieve a success rate of 75-80%; and
- People who have been homeless more than five years or have a substantial history of addiction and/or mental illness are not included in their projections. The CHS Development Plan indicates this group comprises approximately 25% of the homeless population (consistent with homeless count estimates in Victoria and Vancouver).

Central Saanich Council has unanimously rejected institutional or residential zoning at Woodwynn Farms. However, Mayor Jack Mar has suggested he would offer his support, should the project move forward without institutional zoning. It has been proposed that by using a heritage revitalization agreement in conjunction with phased development agreements, institutional rezoning may not be required.

Providence Farms therapeutic community

Providence Farms is a variation on the therapeutic community model, providing programs for adults with mental health issues, developmental disabilities and head injuries. The farm is operated by the Sisters of St. Ann on 400-acres in the Cowichan Valley. Programs include Horticultural Therapy and Vocational Training.

120 participants per week utilize the programs offered through Providence Farms. Participants do not live on site although there are plans in development for a village concept with housing for 225 seniors, families and residents with special needs. Their

guiding principle is the belief that caring for the land is healing and therapeutic. Income sources for Providence Farms include various contracts with the Vancouver Island Health Authority and Community Living BC, private donations and provincial gaming funds.

The Mustard Seed Street Church: Hope Farm Healing Centre

Hope Farm Healing Centre is a 32-acre farm near Duncan, BC offering ten men opportunities to address their addictions by participating in farm labour, physical exercise, spiritual guidance and social, vocational and educational skills training. The farm produces revenue through fruit, vegetable, hay and egg sales in addition to providing fruit and vegetables for free distribution to food banks on Vancouver Island. Residents make a one-year commitment, have gone through a detox or rehabilitation program and have been sober for 30-days. All operating expenses are privately funded through the Mustard Seed Street Church and Hope Farm is presently running a deficit. The farm opened to residents in December 2006.

Guthrie House: Nanaimo Correction Centre

Guthrie House is a therapeutic community currently being piloted within the Nanaimo Correctional Centre, a 170-capacity medium-security facility. The House offers a substance free community environment unit for 25 – 30 inmates who perform regular work duties and must commit to staying substance free, ongoing counselling, peer support and random urine analysis. An evaluation is currently underway.

DISCUSSION:

Issues for Consideration

Housing Matters BC

Through *Housing Matters BC*, the province has identified access to stable housing with supports for the homeless as a key priority. While the Creating Homefulness Society identifies the homeless as its target group, the homeless are not the target population of traditional therapeutic communities, including New Hope Recovery Society.

The second strategy in *Housing Matters BC* prioritizes BC's most vulnerable citizens. Therapeutic communities are very selective in their intake criteria, preferring those referred to as the 'hopeful' sector: those with a strong willingness to change, without current or pending criminal justice charges, who are currently clean and have no serious physical or mental health concerns. As therapeutic communities do not target those living with severe addictions and/or mental illness, it is difficult to argue this model targets the *most* vulnerable. It is essential that the therapeutic community model be evaluated against BC's housing strategies.

Lack of evidence to support model

There is a lack of evidence to support the therapeutic community model as an effective means to addressing addiction or homelessness. There are also numerous 'variations' on the therapeutic community model, further diluting the supporting evidence.

In addition, the emphasis on San Patrignano is problematic. First, the effectiveness of the program is debatable. Second, the community has had 25 years to establish an economy, broad support and secure private benefactors. Current BC therapeutic community model business plans appear to be moving away from the San Patrignano emphasis on financial self-sufficiency.

This lack of evidence and emphasis on San Patrignano makes the therapeutic community model controversial. Therefore there is a risk of public opposition, should government choose to fund the model. However, several media outlets in Victoria have recently supported the Creating Homefulness Society model, posing a public opinion risk should the model not be supported by government.

Inadequate emphasis on discharge planning

Adequate discharge planning is critical to the success of the therapeutic community model. Neither the New Hope nor Creating Homefulness Society business plans satisfactorily address the need to ensure therapeutic communities are a part of a broader continuum of care. After three years in a closed community, reintegration will surely be a challenge for residents.

In addition, one of the main barriers to housing the homeless is the shortage of affordable rental accommodation in many urban centres. The Creating Homefulness Society assumes that 75% of the current homeless population could reintegrate into society should they gain employment skills and emotional support. The model ignores systemic factors such as vacancy rates, housing affordability and employability.

Licensing and rezoning for a true therapeutic community

There is no mention in either BC therapeutic community business plan of a need for Community Care Facility licensing, required for drug and alcohol treatment centres in BC. In addition, neither business plan indicates an application for rezoning, amendments to local community plans, or, in the case of the Creating Homefulness Society, a potential need to apply to the Agriculture Land Reserve commission to permit a non-farm use. Regarding Woodwynn Farms, Central Saanich council has rejected a proposal for institutional or residential rezoning; meaning participants could not live on site.

Proximity to urban centres

The Creating Homefulness Society's Woodwynn Farms Therapeutic Community is proposed in close proximity to commercial centres and a short bus ride from an urban centre. This location appears to conflict with a primary goal of therapeutic communities: an environment separate from drug-related activities. Conversely, Baldy Hughes Therapeutic Community is located approximately one hour outside of Prince George.

Supportive Community Model

While New Hope and Woodwynn are referred to as therapeutic communities, they may also be described as 'Supportive' communities promoting healthy addiction recovery. This alternative model eliminates a need for Community Care Facility licensing, shifts emphasis from therapy and treatment toward the transitional supportive housing model for

the homeless and is better aligned with *Housing Matters BC*. As opposed to an addictions treatment centre, the housing community would be a supportive environment in which previously homeless residents work to develop vocational and life skills before being returning to their home community.

As previously noted, the Creating Homefulness Society does not plan to target those with serious mental health or addiction issues, as they feel this population is already the target of a variety of services. There may be value in considering a model aimed at a segment of the homeless population that does not suffer from serious mental illness. However, in the case of the agriculturally zoned Woodwynn Farms, it is important to recall the need for institutional or multi-family residential rezoning, a proposition rejected by Central Saanich Council.

CONCLUSION:

To date, government has invested limited funding toward therapeutic communities. The Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance has agreed to provide monthly support and shelter payments of \$610 for up to a year to clients who make Baldy Hughes part of their employment plan.

Given the lack of evidence to support the model, it is recommended therapeutic communities prove their effectiveness prior to a commitment of government funding. In addition, government should encourage therapeutic communities to maintain a focus on financial self-sufficiency and consider a shift toward a 'Supportive Community' model. As the model is not without merit, government could consider providing support by using existing resources such as the income assistance support noted above.

Provincial resources as potential support to therapeutic communities:

Administration:

- The development of a business plan template detailing data collection and evaluation requirements for program analysis;
- Facilitated access to NIMBY toolkit, a guide to addressing community resistance to non-market housing;
- Indirect funding through existing government services as noted below:

Housing:

- BC's Homeless Outreach workers facilitate access to rental subsidies for eligible seniors and working families;
- Potential for land acquisition (with covenant on title) and favourable mortgage financing through BC Housing;

Health:

- Access to nurses, physicians, dentists, occupational therapists and social workers;

Corrections and Community Services:

- Use as a court diversion plan as approved by Crown Counsel or as a part of probation;
- Individual and group counselling services offered to residents (e.g. “Stopping the Violence” and “Respectful Relationships;” programs for domestic abuse offenders and victims);

Social Supports:

- Corrections, Homeless Outreach, hospital and Ministry of Children and Family Development staff refer eligible clients, including young adults leaving government care.
- MEIA to fast-track intake appointments to assess eligibility for income assistance for residents without income;
- Support and shelter payments through the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA) for up to one year;
- Access to a range of cultural, social and recreational programming for Aboriginal residents through BC’s Friendship Centre Program; and
- Access to literacy programs and continuing education relevant to resident goals (e.g. horticulture, business, carpentry, etc).

By providing indirect funding through existing services, government helps support therapeutic communities while allowing time to gather data and evaluate the model. The following section outlines the suggested government response with regard to therapeutic communities.

Suggested Government Response

- The therapeutic community model has some potential as a way to support individuals facing homelessness and addictions and encourage them to regain their independence.
- There are concerns about the effectiveness of therapeutic communities as a reliable and cost-effective solution; however we are committed to supporting innovative housing options.
- The Province can offer support for therapeutic communities in a variety of ways including:
 - Development of a business plan template;
 - Assistance connecting eligible residents to income assistance and rental subsidies;
 - Guidance in developing plans to help residents reintegrate into the community;
 - Access to health care resources such as doctors, nurses, dentists and occupational therapists; and,
 - Access to counselling, continuing education and literacy programs.
- We are committed to helping those who are homeless access safe, stable housing with the supports they need to regain their independence. This is reflected in our comprehensive housing strategy – Housing Matters BC.
- The strategy is backed by the highest housing budget in the history of BC – nearly

\$404 million this year. That's more than triple the amount dedicated to provincially subsidized housing in 2001.

- Through the Homeless Outreach Program about 2,500 homeless individuals in BC have been connected to housing since the program was introduced in mid-2006.
- BC is providing subsidized housing options for those most in need:
 - Thousands of new units of supportive housing,
 - Preservation of existing affordable housing units, and
 - Rent assistance for seniors and families in the private market.

Melanie Hope

March 2008

DRAFT

Service Provider's Issues with CLBC

s.13,s.22

s.13,s.22

ADVICE TO MINISTER CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Date: Sept. 12, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Shane Simpson

Kelowna home share provider's concerns

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

s.22

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE - MINISTER RESPONSE:

s.13

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE - CLBC RESPONSE:

s.13,s.22

Communications contact: Randy Schmidt, 604 664-0156.

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
KEY MESSAGES
MINISTRY CLIENTS IMPACTED BY WILDFIRES

September 12, 2017

s.13