

# Urgent-1

## MOTION

### 1. National Pharmacare Program

At the Regular Council meeting on June 23, 2015, Acting Mayor Louie submitted the following motion. Subsequently, Council referred this matter to the Council Meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment as Urgent Business in order to give Councillors additional time to review the motion.

MOVED by Acting Mayor Louie

SECONDED by Councillor Jang

1. WHEREAS The City of Vancouver has recognized and has demonstrated over the past years its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community;
2. Over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by their doctors because they can't afford them;
3. Canada is currently the ONLY country with a national medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program;
4. The risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income Canadians which includes the service industry, precarious working and seasonal workers;
5. Studies show that adding a national pharmacare program to our national health care system would lower costs to businesses by over \$8 billion per year, providing Canadian companies competitive advantages in international trade;
6. Recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment;
7. Municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a national pharmacare program;
8. A national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors; and
9. A National Pharmacare plan is sound policy, both economically and socially the City of Vancouver express its support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic studies now show that such as policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver call on the Province of British Columbia to work with the other Provinces/Territories and the Federal Government to develop and implement a National Pharmacare program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver forward this resolution to the UBCM and the FCM to endorse and adopt a similar resolution.

\* \* \* \* \*