

# B.4

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 4. Call for a Poverty Reduction Plan for British Columbia

MOVER: Councillor Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor Jang

#### WHEREAS

1. The poverty rate in British Columbia continues to be among the highest in Canada at approximately 1 in 10 using the most conservative estimate (Low Income Cut-Off After Tax) , and child poverty rates in BC are still 1 in 5;
2. Many impacts of poverty are experienced at the local level, and local residents pay for poverty in increased health care costs, higher crime, higher demand for community, social and charitable services, lack of school readiness, reduced school success, and lower economic productivity;
3. 78% of British Columbians want the provincial government to implement a poverty reduction plan;
4. BC is the last province in Canada to have a commitment to a poverty reduction plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council advocate to the Provincial Government to develop and implement a provincial poverty reduction strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty in British Columbia by setting concrete targets and timelines to reduce poverty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council submit the resolution attached as Appendix A to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' 2016 Annual Meeting, urging the Government of BC to adopt a comprehensive and accountable provincial poverty reduction strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty in British Columbia by setting concrete targets and timelines to reduce poverty.

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## ***APPENDIX A***

### **UBCM resolution: Call for a Poverty Reduction Plan for British Columbia**

WHEREAS the poverty rate in British Columbia continues to be among the highest in Canada yet BC is the last province in Canada to have a commitment to a poverty reduction plan;

AND WHEREAS many impacts of poverty are experienced at the local level, and local residents pay for poverty in increased health care costs, higher crime, higher demand for community, social and charitable services, lack of school readiness, reduced school success, and lower economic productivity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Government of BC to follow the lead of all other provinces by adopting a comprehensive and accountable provincial poverty reduction strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty in BC by setting concrete targets and timelines to reduce poverty