

## 2. Vancouver Poverty Reduction Plan

MOVER: Councillor Reimer

SECONDER:

### WHEREAS

1. Income inequality is growing across Canada and is leaving far too many people with the stress of managing stagnant incomes and ever growing housing, childcare, transportation and household costs;
2. BC is the only province without a poverty reduction strategy and inequality in BC is the highest in Canada. As the largest city in BC, Vancouver experiences higher than average rates of poverty at approximately 21%;
3. Having a job does not protect you from poverty. Approximately half of the people living in poverty in Vancouver are working but do not make high enough wages to make ends meet;
4. Poverty disproportionately affects women, people of colour, aboriginal people, people dealing with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses - including mental illness - meaning that in order to be effective, a poverty reduction plan must also deal with structural inequity and inequality;
5. In October 2014, City Council adopted a poverty reduction target and in 2015 committed to develop a poverty reduction plan as part of the Healthy City Action Plan (2015-2018). However at that time neither the federal nor provincial governments were committed to poverty reduction strategies;
6. Municipalities lack direct control over key drivers of poverty such as minimum wage, social assistance rates and protections for renters. The recent governing agreement from the provincial NDP and Green Party supports positive action on these policies;
7. The federal government has committed to developing a national Poverty Reduction Strategy and launched consultations in February 2017, which the City of Vancouver is making a submission to.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council with an update on the Vancouver Poverty Reduction Plan including opportunities for expanded action as a result of new provincial and federal commitments.