

B.5(b)

MOTION ON NOTICE

The following resolution relates to provincial policies and is submitted for consideration to forward to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA). The resolution, if approved by Council, will be submitted to the LMLGA by March 22, 2013, for consideration at its AGM and Convention to be held May 8-10, 2013.

(b) Support for Raise the Rates Coalition

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS

1. Raise the Rates is a coalition of community groups and organizations concerned with the level of poverty and homelessness in British Columbia.
2. Although the poverty rate for people of all ages in B.C. fell slightly to 11.5 percent in 2010 from 12 percent in 2009 but the province has had the worst poverty rate in Canada for 12 consecutive years and the worst child poverty rate in Canada for the past eight years
3. A 2011 report estimated the cost of poverty in BC at \$8.1 - \$9.2 billion a year wasted on health care, the justice system and in lost economic opportunities, with equally significant social costs

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of BC Municipalities support the Raise the Rates Coalition in urging the Provincial Government to:

- remove arbitrary barriers that prevent people in need from receiving provincial Income Assistance such as the 2-year independence test and 3-week work search;
- end claw-backs that prevent people from supplementing their welfare with paid work and single parents receiving support from the absent parent up to the Market Basket Measure; and
- increase provincial Income Assistance rates to the Market Basket Measure, the minimum monthly cost required for food, shelter and transportation

Please note: more information on the Raise the Rates Coalition is available online at <http://raisetherates.org/about/>

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