

MOTION

9. Universal No-Cost Coverage of Prescription Contraception

At the Council meeting on February 25, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on February 26, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

Moved by: Councillor Swanson

WHEREAS

1. Cost is a significant barrier to people accessing contraception, particularly to people with low incomes, youth, and people from marginalized communities;
2. Providing free prescription contraception has been shown to improve health outcomes for parents and infants by reducing the risks associated with unintended pregnancy, and is likely to reduce direct medical costs on the provincial health system; and
3. Contraceptive methods targeted at men (such as condoms or vasectomies) are available at low cost or are covered by BC's Medical Services Plan, whereas contraceptive methods for people with uteruses (such as birth control pills, intra-uterine devices, or hormone injections) have high up-front costs, making access to contraception unequal and gendered.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Mayor to urge the Provincial Government to make all prescription contraception in BC available at no cost under the Medical Services Plan.

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