



Jonathan X. Côté
Mayor

July 6, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Disaggregated COVID-19 Data Collection

I am writing to seek your support for calling on the Provincial and Federal governments to collect disaggregated COVID-19 data. At a meeting on June 22, 2020, New Westminster City Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS it is clear from other jurisdictions, including the United States, that the COVID-19 pandemic and other health concerns disproportionately impact racialized community members and those with who experience systemic, marginalizing barriers to healthcare access as well as precarious work; and

WHEREAS BC and Canada do not capture race-based or socioeconomic data, which effectively buries the impact of illness and disease on disproportionately impacted groups within the larger aggregated data, erasing opportunities to address health inequities; and

WHEREAS BC has experienced a lower than average illness and causality rate primarily because of evidence based data; and

WHEREAS racialized communities and advocates have been requesting that the province collect disaggregated data;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster write to the provincial and federal Ministers of Health requesting that they collect disaggregated data including race, socioeconomic class,

and disability that will allow for evidence-based health care and social program interventions; and

THAT the data are analyzed and interpreted with community leadership and input; and

THAT the data are collected with the intention of being understood as indicators of systemic and structural oppression to identify root causes of disparity; and

THAT this letter be forwarded to all BC municipalities asking to write their support as well.

We appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan X. Cote', with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal flourish.

Jonathan X. Cote
Mayor

Cc: The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister of Health
The Honourable Adrian Dix, British Columbia Minister of Health