

March 11, 2021

Honourable Nicholas Simons
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Room 236 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

VIA Email: SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Raise Disability and Income Assistance to a Livable Rate

At its March 8, 2021 Regular Council meeting, the Council for the City of Langley endorsed the following resolution and resolved that it be forwarded to UBCM member local governments, local MLAs and MPs, as well as the Provincial ministers responsible for Social Development, Poverty Reduction, Finance, and Housing, requesting favourable consideration:

WHEREAS after many years of frozen income assistance rates and only minimal increases to disability benefits the current Provincial Government increased rates, for single people, by \$150 between 2017 and 2019 but most people who receive disability benefits or income assistance continue to live well below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government added a \$300/month COVID benefit for those receiving disability and income assistance, which temporarily reduced people's risk of losing their housing and increased their access to necessities including food and medical supplies, but as of January 2021 the benefit has been reduced to \$150/month and there is no commitment to provide additional support past March 2021;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia permanently reinstate the automatic, \$300/month benefit for people receiving disability benefits and income assistance and move to raise disability and income assistance to a livable rate that is above the market basket measure (MBM).

Background information on this resolution is enclosed for reference.

Yours truly,
CITY OF LANGLEY



Kelly Kenney
Corporate Officer

Enclosure