



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

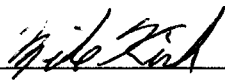


To: General Purposes Committee
From: David Weber
Director, City Clerk's Office
Date: August 24, 2005
File: 01-0100-01/2005-Vol 01
Re: **BC Healthy Communities Coalition Steering Committee Representative**

Staff Recommendation

That a member of Council be appointed to serve on the Steering Committee of the BC Healthy Communities Coalition until the inaugural meeting in December, 2005.

David Weber
Director, City Clerk's Office
(4098)

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO 	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The City has received a request to appoint a member of Council to serve on the Steering Committee of the new BC Healthy Communities Coalition.

Analysis

Funded through the Ministry of Health Services, the BC Healthy Communities Coalition has been established to develop and implement the Healthy Communities Initiative. The overall goal of this initiative is to increase the capacity of communities in BC to create more supportive environments and to address issues that will lead to the improved health of BC residents (see **Attachment 1** for an executive summary of the program).

A 15 member Steering Committee, which will be hosted by and receive administrative support from UBCM, will lead the BC Healthy Communities Coalition. The Steering Committee consists of 7 representatives from provincial level organizations (including UBCM) and 8 community-based representatives. Four of the eight community-based representatives are to be municipal Council members.

Richmond was identified as a potential community for one of the Council member positions because of the strong work done in the area of wellness. The areas of health, wellness, social planning and the environment have been put forward as areas of interest for potential Steering Committee members.

At this time it is envisioned that a Richmond Council representative would sit on the Steering Committee for the first two years. At the end of this initial period, the Steering Committee itself would likely re-assess the representation on the Committee as it moves forward. Given this continuing commitment, a short-term appointment for a period ending with the inaugural meeting in December 2005 would allow this appointment to be considered by Council along with all the other Council appointments of a continuing nature.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

That Council accept the invitation to participate on the Steering Committee of the BC Healthy Communities Coalition by appointing a Council member to serve on the Steering Committee.



David Weber
Director, City Clerk's Office
(4098)

Executive Summary of the Proposal

It is recommended that the Ministry of Health Services develop a Healthy Communities Initiative as a component of the ActNow BC program, and provide funding of \$535,000 per annum to the project. The Healthy Communities Coalition and Initiative will be led by a Steering Committee and will be located and housed administratively within the Union of BC Municipalities offices. The UBCM and its Healthy Communities Committee will also serve as a key partner in encouraging municipalities and community networks to initiate local healthy community plans and activities. The Healthy Communities Initiative and Steering Committee will be supported by a small Central and Regional staff. There will be strong connections to provincial organizations and Health Authorities. The basic components of the proposal are:

- ❖ **An independent BC Healthy Communities Coalition (BCHCC) will be formed and primarily funded by the Ministry of Health Services to develop and implement a Healthy Communities Initiative within the overall ActNow BC initiative.**
- ❖ **The BCHCC will be led by a 15 member Steering Committee plus an ex officio representative from both MOHS and ActNow BC.**
- ❖ **The BCHCC will be hosted within the Union of BC Municipalities who will serve as the administrator of the grant from MOHS.**
- ❖ **A clear MOU between UBCM, the Steering Committee and MOHS needs to be developed regarding accountabilities and responsibilities.**
- ❖ **In addition to the Steering Committee, there would be a larger provincial Advisory Committee with representatives from all of the related provincial organizations and each of the Health Authorities.**
- ❖ **The staff capacity would include a small, 3 FTE Central staff located at the UBCM offices in Richmond; they would also receive other forms of in-kind support from UBCM. The Central staff would be supported initially by two (or 2 FTE) Regional Facilitators/Animators, one in the Northern Health Region and one in the Interior Health Region. In the future, two additional Facilitator FTEs would be added, one in the Vancouver Island Health region and the other in the Fraser Health Region. The Central Staff will provide facilitation services to Vancouver Island, Fraser and Vancouver Coastal health regions in the short term, and would continue to serve Vancouver Coastal Health Region for the long-term.**

- ❖ **The role of the Steering Committee, and Central and Regional staff, would be to foster and support community-based committees and healthy community activities. These may be new committees or existing networks and bodies. Local government participation in these local bodies is encouraged, but is not required.**

- ❖ **These community-based committees would be encouraged to register with BCHCC and to share their plans and initiatives with other communities.**

The overall **Goal** of the Healthy Communities Initiative is to increase the capacity of communities in British Columbia to create more supportive environments and address issues that will lead to the improved health of their citizens. Some objectives are:

- To strengthen and create strategic alliances between provincial and regional organizations which result in positive, healthy impacts at the local level.
- Encourage and support the development of local healthy community networks, including existing ones, resulting in more comprehensive approaches to the health and vitality of communities.
- Enhance communication, cooperation and mutual support between and among communities.
- To have a positive influence on the development of healthy public policy.
- To contribute to the planning and development of community environments that support healthy lifestyles.
- To contribute to the goals and objectives of ActNow BC.

This proposal was developed under the guidance of a **Planning Group** that included representatives of key provincial organizations (see Section 2). These organizations were: UBCM, Planning Institute of BC (PIBC), Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC), BC Healthy Living Alliance (BCHLA), 2010LegaciesNow, a representative of the Health Authorities, and MOHS representatives.