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May 6, 2022

The Honourable Adrian Dix, M.L.A., Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
PO Box 9035, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E3

Sent via email: HLTH.Health@gov.bc.ca

Re: Universally Available Prescription Contraception

Dear Minister Dix,

On behalf of the District of Summerland municipal Council, I am writing to urge the Provincial Government make all prescription contraception universally available at no cost under the BC Medical Services Plan.

Providing no cost prescription contraception is an important policy objective as it will assist in making life more affordable for British Columbians, improve health outcomes for infants and mothers, increase equity. The cost of contraceptives is a particularly significant barrier to people with low incomes, youth, and people from marginalized communities. Universal coverage for contraception will help lessen the barriers faced by B.C.'s more vulnerable residents.

Municipal Council affirmed their support at the April 11, 2022 Regular (Evening) Council meeting by passing the following resolution:

R(e)-2022-64

Moved and Seconded,

WHEREAS cost is an absolute barrier to people accessing contraception, particularly for people with low incomes, youth, and people from equity-seeking communities;

WHEREAS providing no-cost prescription contraception improves 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;

WHEREAS contraceptive methods targeted at males (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, intrauterine devices, or hormone injections) have high up-front costs, making access to contraception inequitable;

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

CARRIED

The District of Summerland urges the Provincial Government to follow through with the 2020 election campaign promise to make contraceptions free. We look forward to this promise being fulfilled prior to the 2024 provincial election.

Sincerely,

Mayor Toni Boot
District of Summerland

cc. M.L.A. Dan Ashton