



Jonathan X. Côté
Mayor

September 15, 2020

The Honourable John Horgan, MLA
Premier of British Columbia
West Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via Email: Premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier,

Re: Universal access to no-cost prescription contraception

At a meeting on September 14, 2020, New Westminster City Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS cost is a significant barrier to people accessing contraception, particularly to people with low incomes, youth, and people from marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS 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

WHEREAS contraceptive methods such as condoms or vasectomies are available at low cost, no cost, or are covered by BC's Medical Services Plan, whereas all 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 unequal and gendered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the City of New Westminster write to the Provincial Minister of Finance, the Provincial Minister of Health, the Premier of BC, and the local MLA supporting universal no-cost access to all prescription contraception available in BC under the Medical Services Plan; 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,



Jonathan X. Cote
Mayor

Cc: Hon. Carole James, Minister of Finance, FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Hon. Judy Darcy, MLA, New Westminster, judy.darcy.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Jas Johal, MLA, Richmond-Queensborough, jas.johal.MLA@leg.bc.ca
All BC Municipalities