



October 14, 2021

Dear UBCM member local governments,

On behalf of Victoria City Council, I am writing today to share the City of Victoria's resolution entitled *Paid Sick Leave For Workers*.

The City of Victoria endorsed and submitted a motion for debate at the 2021 UBCM convention which called for 10 days of universally accessible, permanent paid sick leave for workers. Unfortunately, the City of Victoria's paid sick leave resolution was not considered at UBCM as time did not allow, meaning the resolution will be forwarded to the UBCM executive for consideration. The resolution reads as follows:

Resolution: Paid Sick Leave For Workers

Whereas one year into a global pandemic that has killed thousands of British Columbians and millions of people worldwide, there is no legislation ensuring adequate, employer-paid sick days with the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit being temporary, sometimes inaccessible, and not of use for the crucial first few days of an illness;

And whereas if paid sick day legislation had been in place before the global pandemic, lives would have been saved because infection rates would have been reduced; And whereas the lack of legislated paid sick days has especially hurt Black, Indigenous, workers of colour and women workers who are over-represented in frontline jobs, with low pay, few benefits, and without the ability to work from home:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to legislate a minimum of ten (10) accessible, universal, and permanent, paid sick days for all workers and additional days during public health outbreaks.

Since the time that the City of Victoria's paid sick leave resolution was first submitted, the BC Provincial Government has committed to bringing paid sick leave legislation by the beginning of 2022. On September 22, 2021, the Provincial government released three options for paid sick leave approaches and consultation is being conducted until October 25, 2021.

The City of Victoria recognizes the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in whose traditional territories we live and work "Hay swx qa"

Therefore, we are requesting favourable consideration and motions of support from all UBCM member local governments, noting the above deadline for consultation from the BC Ministry of Labour.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions relating to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Helps".

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor