

“Child of the Fraser” for all of Richmond

Richmond City Council recognizes the urgent need to address the challenges presented by individuals struggling with acute drug addiction and severe mental illness, which are contributing to social disorder in public spaces. We are actively urging the Province of BC to enact comprehensive and efficient measures that focus on the safety, well-being, and recovery of these vulnerable individuals, while also ensuring the safety and security of all residents, workers, and visitors in our city.

Recently, I have brought attention to various issues and stressed the importance of legislative action to tackle them. As a local government, we have taken proactive steps to uphold Richmond as an inclusive community where everyone can flourish, regardless of their background or economic circumstances.

In May, I highlighted the need for a proactive approach to drug addiction, emphasizing the significance of education and intervention for those in need. In June, I called for immediate policies to ensure naloxone is easily accessible in all trades and educational institutions following a tragic incident at the University of Victoria. This month, I emphasized the importance of establishing secure care facilities in B.C. to offer individuals the necessary support and treatment for their conditions, rather than relying on the criminal justice system.

It is essential that we address these issues with compassion and understanding, recognizing that individuals facing addiction and mental illness deserve access to proper care and resources. As a conscientious and caring Council, we prioritize listening to and addressing the concerns of marginalized individuals and the diverse communities that form Richmond. It is crucial to educate everyone and raise awareness about the challenges experienced by those who are disadvantaged, in order to foster empathy and understanding among all Richmond residents. This involves providing accurate information about inequality and highlighting the positive impact of supporting marginalized populations on the overall well-being of the community.

Additionally, as a respectful Council, we strive to find common ground and develop strategies to prioritize the welfare and dignity of everyone. Efforts should be made to create an inclusive and empathetic environment where every individual is valued and supported, regardless of their background or beliefs.

By collaborating and implementing effective measures, we can establish a safer and healthier environment for all members of our community.