

## **REPORT**

### ***Planning and Development***

**To:** Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council  
**Date:** May 5, 2025

**From:** Jackie Teed, Director,  
Planning and Development  
**File:** 13.2630.08  
#2666205

**Item #:** 2025-113

**Subject:** **Proposed Next Steps Related to the Council Motion of January 13, 2025 Regarding the New West Hospice Society**

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#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

*THAT the proposed next steps in the staff report titled “Proposed Next Steps Related to the Council Motion of January 13, 2024 Regarding the New West Hospice Society” dated May 5, 2025 from the Director of Planning and Development be endorsed.*

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#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is threefold: (1) to report back on the Council motion of January 13, 2025 related to City support for the New West Hospice Society; (2) to propose next steps related to providing support; and (3) to outline work program and financial implications related to providing support.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Council Motion***

On January 13, 2025, Council endorsed the following motion related to the New West Hospice Society:

*THAT the City of New Westminster work with the New West Hospice Society and external partners to explore potential locations for hospice services, and to advocate to the Provincial Government for the supports required to bring adequate and compassionate end-of-life care beds to New Westminster.*

***Need for Hospice Services in New Westminster***

In British Columbia, there are 8.5 hospice beds per 100,000 people. In the Fraser Health Region, there are 6.5 hospice beds per 100,000 people, and in the Fraser North Health Service Delivery Area, which includes New Westminster, there are 5.0 hospice beds per 100,000 people. There are currently no publicly-funded hospice beds in New Westminster. In 2009, the Fraser Health Authority closed the 10-bed hospice facility at the Queens Park Care Centre, with its resources being relocated at the new Irene Thomas Hospice in Delta. The stated reason for relocation was to address a significant funding deficit.

New Westminster currently has a population of 92,433. Based on Metro Vancouver Growth Projections, New Westminster's population is projected to increase to 106,580 by 2030 and to 127,390 by 2040. Of note, New Westminster is projected to be one of the fastest growing municipalities in Metro Vancouver.

The nearest hospice beds to New Westminster are located in Burnaby (16), Port Moody (10) and Surrey (35). For family members and friends supporting someone at end of life in another municipality, distance and expenses can present challenges, particularly for those with disabilities, mobility limitations, or fixed or low incomes. Based on conversations between the New West Hospice Society and the Palliative Team at Royal Columbian Hospital, the latter reported hospice admissions are currently facing a three to four week wait period.

***New West Hospice Society***

In 2016, the New West Hospice Society was founded, with the following three goals:

1. To normalize the conversation around death and dying.
2. To reach-in to those facing end of life in their homes to provide support.
3. To re-establish a hospice in New Westminster.

The Society has made significant progress with regard to the first two goals, including but not limited to: completing advanced care plans with unhoused individuals, participating in rounds by the Palliative Team at Royal Columbian Hospital; providing a network of support for residents facing end of life; and supporting a suite at Legion Manor which provides hospice services to people who lack stable housing. The one goal where limited progress has been made is with regard to re-establishing a hospice in New Westminster. The Society is early in the process of exploring possible locations for a hospice in New Westminster, and has identified that they have limited financial resources when it comes to identifying and/or developing a site on its own, and will likely need to work with external partners.

**Fraser Health Authority**

The Society presented to the Fraser Health Authority Board at its meeting on February 26, 2025. The presentation was well received and the Society was invited back to a future Board meeting. The Society also connected with senior management officials, including the Regional Director, Palliative Care.

In a Policy Brief prepared by the Society for the Fraser Health Authority Board, it references the per-bed cost for end of life in-hospital care at about \$1,500 per day and the per-bed cost of in-hospice care at about \$500 per day.

**NEXT STEPS*****Currently Available City Support***

The City can provide support in the following ways:

1. *Advocacy Support* – the New West Hospice Society will need to partner with the Fraser Health Authority to achieve success, and the City could forward a letter in support of the Society from the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to the Ministry of Health, the Fraser Health Authority Board and the Regional Director, Palliative Care.
2. *Data Support* – the City could continue to provide available background documentation in support of a hospice in New Westminster, including sharing statistical information.
3. *Development Application Support* – the Society will likely need to engage external partners, including a developer/builder, and identify a development site suitable for their project. Staff could then work with the Society and external partners to further explore the site(s) for hospice services, including sharing information on zoning and other key development considerations, as well as the development approvals process.
4. *Hospice as an Amenity Contribution* – Due to the changes in Provincial legislation, the City now has limited-to-no ability to negotiate for the full range of in-kind amenities previously achieved through the development approvals process, including a use such as hospice. The majority of the development portion of growth-related infrastructure and amenity costs will be captured through structured works and services agreements, amenity cost charges, and development costs charges, with fixed rates and deliverables. While there may be some limited opportunities for in-kind developer contributions, such as hospice, child care, community meeting space, etc., further work is required to determine if and how these may be achieved through the new tools, and Council would need to provide policy direction regarding which amenities should be sought. This work is being done as part of the City-wide Financing Growth Strategy, which is currently underway.

**WORK PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed next steps can be accommodated within the existing work programs of the Planning and Development Department.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications related to the proposed next steps other than staff time.

**OPTIONS**

The two options presented for Council's consideration are:

1. That the proposed next steps in the staff report titled "Proposed Next Steps Related to the Council Motion of January 13, 2024 Regarding the New West Hospice Society" dated May 5, 2025 from the Director of Planning and Development be endorsed.
2. That Council provide staff with other direction.

Staff recommends option 1.

**APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:  
John Stark, Manager, Social Planning

This report was reviewed by:  
Rupinder Basi, Deputy Director, Planning

This report was approved by:  
Rupinder Basi, Acting Director, Planning and Development  
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer