



# Corporate Report

NO: R164

COUNCIL DATE: July 5, 2004

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council                      DATE: June 29, 2004  
FROM: General Manager,                      FILE: 5280-23  
          Engineering                              4804-902  
SUBJECT: Provincial Funding for West Nile Virus & City's  
              WNV Response Plan

---

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Receive the attached West Nile Virus (WNV) Response Plan.
2. Endorse the attached resolution requesting ongoing provincial funding for local government West Nile Virus prevention initiatives and forward it to the UBCM for consideration at the 2004 UBCM Convention:
3. Authorize the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report to the Provincial government.

## BACKGROUND

As detailed in Corporate Report R093 earlier this year, the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) has asked municipalities within its area to prepare a WNV response plan that addresses public communication, surveillance, and control relating to mosquitoes and WNV. Staff has prepared this response plan based on the regional policy developed by the GVRD's Mosquito Technical Work Group and approved by the GVRD Board of Directors on March 26, 2004.

In 2004, the Province, through the BC Ministry for Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services (MCAWS), provided one-time West Nile Assistance funding to BC local governments. However, the experience in other provinces where West Nile Virus has already become an ongoing public health concern with significant associated costs, is that continued, adequate, annual funding to BC municipalities is necessary to effectively manage the risk.

Recognizing the need for ongoing funding, the proposed resolution (attachment 1) has been prepared for consideration at the 2004 UBCM Convention. This resolution requests that the UBCM take the lead on behalf of its members, to ensure that the Province clearly understands the continued need to fund local government West Nile Virus initiatives in the future. Similar resolutions are being adopted by a number of other local municipalities.

## CONCLUSION

In order to meet the public health challenges associated with the West Nile Virus prevention initiatives we are requesting sustainable funding from the Provincial Government. The prevention measures that the City will be undertaking are outlined in the attached West Nile Virus Response Plan.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering

PH/VL/rdd/brb  
Attachment

g:\wp-docs\2004\utilities\06211542vl.doc  
BRB 7/5/04 8:49 AM

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 2004 UBCM CONVENTION**

### **RE:                   ONGOING PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL WEST NILE VIRUS PLANS**

WHEREAS the coordinated Provincial West Nile Virus Strategy delegates to local government, as land owners, the responsibility for the management of mosquito populations on their lands;

AND WHEREAS to date, Provincial funding to local government in support of West Nile Virus control initiatives has been limited to one-time grants for the 2004 mosquito season;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities is deeply concerned about the ongoing costs to local government to adequately address the West Nile Virus risk and request the Minister of Community Aboriginal and Women's Services to provide an annual provincial West Nile Virus prevention funding program to off-set local government West Nile Virus programs cost in 2005 and beyond.

VL/rdd

g:\wp-docs\2004\utilities\06211542vl.doc  
BRB 7/5/04 8:49 AM

