



Jonathan X. Côté  
Mayor

July 6, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Disaggregated COVID-19 Data Collection**

I am writing to seek your support for calling on the Provincial and Federal governments to collect disaggregated COVID-19 data. At a meeting on June 22, 2020, New Westminster City Council passed the following resolution:

*WHEREAS it is clear from other jurisdictions, including the United States, that the COVID-19 pandemic and other health concerns disproportionately impact racialized community members and those with who experience systemic, marginalizing barriers to healthcare access as well as precarious work; and*

*WHEREAS BC and Canada do not capture race-based or socioeconomic data, which effectively buries the impact of illness and disease on disproportionately impacted groups within the larger aggregated data, erasing opportunities to address health inequities; and*

*WHEREAS BC has experienced a lower than average illness and causality rate primarily because of evidence based data; and*

*WHEREAS racialized communities and advocates have been requesting that the province collect disaggregated data;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster write to the provincial and federal Ministers of Health requesting that they collect disaggregated data including race, socioeconomic class,*

*and disability that will allow for evidence-based health care and social program interventions; and*

*THAT the data are analyzed and interpreted with community leadership and input; and*

*THAT the data are collected with the intention of being understood as indicators of systemic and structural oppression to identify root causes of disparity; 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan X. Cote', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan X. Cote  
Mayor

Cc: The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister of Health  
The Honourable Adrian Dix, British Columbia Minister of Health