



March 11, 2020

Dear Mayor Kennedy Stewart and City Council,

The Access to City Services Without Fear policy was adopted by the city nearly four years ago. That development was the result of remarkable leadership in prioritizing the rights and safety of all of Vancouver's residents and visitors.

However, the effects of that policy have yet to be fully realized as it has not been effectively implemented. The BC Civil Liberties Association continues to have grave concerns for the wellbeing of people with precarious migration status in Vancouver because the city has not properly invested in actualizing all facets of the policy.

Today each of you have a significant opportunity to uphold human rights and reinvigorate our city's commitment to the Access to City Services Without Fear policy. On behalf of the BC Civil Liberties Association, I urge you to support the "Safety for Residents with Precarious Status: Delivering Access Without Fear" motion on your council agenda.

Backing the motion is particularly important at this moment in the city's history. The government of Canada continues with its callous trajectory of favouring temporary immigration over permanent immigration, leaving many people in our community with insecure and limited rights.

In this context, it is crucial to have consistent and well-understood access without fear policies throughout the city. It is unconscionable that some people cannot access critical living, safety, emergency housing, and community services without compromising their personal safety or that of their loved ones.

You have an exceptional opportunity today to recommit to the values underlying the 2016 policy and to ensure that the city of Vancouver protects the rights and safety of everyone.

Please choose to support the motion and all the people and communities who will benefit from it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Meghan McDermott'.

Meghan McDermott
Staff Counsel