

## MOTION

No. 124

### Calling on government to increase access to contraceptives for Islanders

Hannah Bell gives notice that she will move, seconded by Karla Bernard, the following Motion:

**WHEREAS** unintended pregnancy and access to contraception have been flagged as key issues in women's health;

**AND WHEREAS** unintended pregnancies take a toll on the mental health and wellbeing of all affected persons and their families, and the impacts are greatest among youth;

**AND WHEREAS** in 2014, unintended pregnancies accounted for over 80% of all pregnancies among Canadian youth under 20;

**AND WHEREAS** youth parenting is associated with lower lifetime educational achievement, lower income, and increased reliance on social support programs;

**AND WHEREAS** timely access to effective contraception reduces the incidence of unintended pregnancy;

**AND WHEREAS** cost is a significant barrier to using contraception for many Islanders, especially those in low income or youth;

**AND WHEREAS** the most effective contraceptives with the lowest lifetime costs - intrauterine devices - have the highest upfront costs and are used by only a tiny fraction of women;

**AND WHEREAS** confidentiality may also be a factor, especially among youth, who may be reluctant to access contraceptives through their family doctor or via their parents' health insurance;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge government to allow pharmacists to prescribe oral contraceptives and refer for intrauterine devices;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge government to fully cover the cost, as payer of last resort for those over 18, for both oral contraceptives and intrauterine devices.

Signed by: Hannah Bell

Signed by: Karla Bernard

Date: November 3, 2022