

Pamela Martin

Subject: 196133 Helps SDPR Response

From: Shane Simpson <SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 2:49 PM

To: "Lisa Helps (Mayor)" <LHelps@victoria.ca>

Subject: 196133 Helps SDPR Response

Ref: 196133

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
and Councillors
City of Victoria
mayor@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps and Council:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2018, requesting adequate and appropriate support services to advance housing security and to improve health and wellbeing.

I appreciate the importance of supportive housing for vulnerable individuals and I agree that it's essential for these individuals to receive wrap-around support services that will not only provide them with a home but will also provide them with services to advance their personal health and wellbeing.

This is why, through the Budget 2017 Update, our government committed to providing \$291 million to build 2,000 units of modular supportive housing over two years, and more than \$170 million over three years to provide around-the-clock staffing and support services. The flexibility of modular technology allows for a range of buildings that will fit the needs of residents and communities across the province.

As you are likely aware, Victoria will receive 21 modular homes from the Building BC: Rapid Response to Homelessness program with wrap-around support services for young people, seniors, people with disabilities, and others who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Support services include:

- Providing meals;
- Connecting residents with community supports like education and employment opportunities, as well as health and wellness services;
- Delivering individual or group support services, such as life skills, community information, and social and recreational programs;
- Planning and needs assessment for individual cases;
- Assisting residents in meeting their personal and residential goals through delivering various programs, such as culturally-specific programs;
- Helping people access income assistance, pension benefits, and disability benefits, as well as assisting individuals to obtain a BC identification card or to establish a bank account;
- Teaching residents about how to operate and maintain a home; and
- Providing no-cost laundry services, either on or off site.

Additionally, in response to the success of this program and significant interest from communities, our government is launching the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund, which will deliver a further 2,500 new homes with around-the-clock support services.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I appreciate hearing from you about this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

Shane Simpson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction