



October 1, 2018

Capital Regional District
John Reilly, Manager Housing Planning and Programs
625 Fisgard St. P.O. Box 1000
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

MAYOR'S OFFICE

OCT 05 2018

Dear John Reilly,

On June 11, 2018, the Honourable Minister Duclos announced a redesigned federal homelessness program called Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. Reaching Home will replace the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), starting on April 1, 2019.

A second, more detailed program announcement with information on all aspects of Reaching Home will be made in fall 2018. In the meantime, the purpose of this letter is to confirm your interest to continue in your role as a Community Entity for Victoria, BC under the Indigenous Homelessness funding stream.

Reaching Home will introduce greater flexibility in how funding can be used by introducing an outcomes-based approach whereby communities have more flexibility to allocate funds to better meet local needs and priorities. In addition, Reaching Home will introduce Coordinated Access to help communities shift towards a more systems-based approach to addressing homelessness that will ensure fairness, prioritize people most in need of assistance, and match individuals to appropriate housing and services.

In collaboration with community partners, including Indigenous organizations and service providers, and consistent with the Government of Canada's commitment to achieving reconciliation through renewed relationships with Indigenous Peoples, departmental officials will be exploring options to ensure that designated Indigenous investments under Reaching Home increase opportunities for Indigenous-led homelessness solutions, as well as for culturally-appropriate initiatives.

Recognizing that communities will require time to prepare for the program changes in advance of April 1, 2019 and determine how to prioritize their investments within the new program parameters, communities will be able to extend service projects for up to one year to avoid service disruptions. The Department will support Community Entities throughout this transition period.

In advance of more detailed discussions on how to manage the transition, which will take place in the context of negotiating contribution agreements, we are reaching out to Community Entities to confirm their interest to move forward with the renewed program in April 2019. These initial discussions will allow all parties involved to plan



ahead and mitigate any issues that may arise thereby ensuring a smooth transition for clients of the program and the organizations that serve them.

Please send written confirmation of your interest in continuing in your role as a Community Entity to Donna Wingfield, Senior Program Development Officer at donna.wingfield@servicecanada.gc.ca. Following receipt of your response, Donna will communicate with you to discuss next steps.

Thank you for your efforts to address homelessness in Victoria, BC.

Sincerely,



Grace Kerr on behalf of Jan Fix
Director Western -Territories Labour Market Programs

cc: **Lisa Helps**. CRD City of Victoria Co-Chair Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

Ian Batey, Community Director, Co-Chair Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

