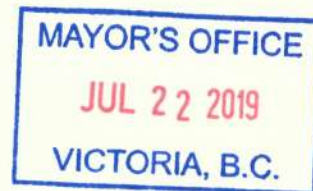




July 18, 2019

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6



Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your May 27, 2019 letter, addressed to Premier John Horgan, in which you request, on behalf of the City of Victoria, that government provide the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre (VSAC) with multi-year funding to cover core operational costs. Your letter has been referred to me given that the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General recently provided a one-time grant of \$200,000 to VSAC. I am pleased to respond.

Our government is committed to ensuring all women and children have access to the services and supports they need to help prevent violence, escape from violent situations and heal from the impacts of violence. To better meet the ongoing demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach and crisis support for women and children who experience sexual assault and other crimes, the 2018/19 budget increased annual funding by \$5 million starting in 2018/19, which will be further increased by an additional \$3 million in 2020/21. The ministry provides over \$37 million annually in funding to support over 400 victim services and violence against women programs across the province. VSAC is currently contracted by the ministry to deliver a Community-based Victim Service Program and a Stopping the Violence Counselling Program.

The ministry recognizes the important work that VSAC's Sexual Assault Centre Integrated Clinic does to support survivors in the aftermath of sexualized violence. The one-time grant of \$200,000 that the ministry provided to VSAC is to be used over 2019/20 and 2020/21 as transition funding to help cover the operating costs of the Clinic while the organization continues to undertake work to ensure its long-term success and sustainability.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your advocacy in this area and for your commitment to VSAC and its Clinic's innovative work to support survivors of sexual assault.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable John Horgan