



VIA EMAIL

March 26, 2021

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6
Email: lhelps@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2021, concerning the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) modernization and vulnerable populations.

I share your concern about the needs of vulnerable populations. The October 2019 discussion paper "Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation" noted that one of the factors driving modernization is that the needs of our most vulnerable citizens are not always sufficiently considered. While the modernized legislation is still under development, I expect that there will be a requirement for risk assessments and emergency management plans to anticipate and consider the effects of emergency events on vulnerable populations. As you point out, the current COVID-19 pandemic illustrates how that can manifest in various ways.

Thank you for your ongoing work supporting vulnerable people in the City of Victoria. The recent Memorandum of Understanding between the Province and the City of Victoria is an important development to address issues associated with homelessness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth".

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: Rich Elliot, Executive Assistant, Mayor's Office
Colleen Mycroft, Manager of Executive Operations