



## BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

January 26, 2021

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

Dear Mayor Helps and Members of Council:

As the Minister responsible for Housing, I am pleased to offer my support for the proposed Hadera housing development at 1475 Fort Street.

The Province of British Columbia is committed to making life more affordable for renters. This includes our work to deliver on our 10-year housing plan, *Homes for B.C.*, as well as our actions to deliver a freeze on rent increases until the end of 2021 and limit rent increases to the rate of inflation. This also involves working with communities to help them meet their affordable housing needs.

We know that the Capital Regional District (CRD) has a significant need for more affordable rental housing. I do not think it would be an exaggeration to describe the current lack of availability of rental housing at reasonable income levels in many parts of the province as a crisis. Based on the latest Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation numbers, Victoria's rental vacancy rate remains below 1 per cent. A significant part of the solution to this crisis, a solution which is not unique to the Victoria, is increasing the availability of purpose-built rental housing. Your decision today is an example of how individual councils can help with important provincial work to address the crisis.

The Hadera development, led by Lantern Properties in partnership with Paladon Development Group, is consistent with the goals of the *Victoria Housing Strategy Phase Two: 2019-2022*, which seeks to improve affordability, stability and choice for renters in Victoria:

[www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/Housing~Strategy/The%20Victoria%20Housing%20Strategy\\_Phase%20Two\\_FINAL%20Web.pdf](http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/Housing~Strategy/The%20Victoria%20Housing%20Strategy_Phase%20Two_FINAL%20Web.pdf)

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The Hadera project seeks to add 32 new units of rental housing to the Fort Street corridor, with four of these units set at affordable rental rates. These units will be close to transit and offer a range of active transportation connections. I am confident that this development will help the City of Victoria and the Province work toward our shared goal of improving affordability for renters, and also contribute to the goals laid out in Clean BC through the building's energy-efficient and environmentally conscious design.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. This is the type of project we need to see more of across the region. I look forward to our continued work together to address Victoria's housing needs.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Eby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Eby, QC  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing

pc: Ms. Grace Lore, MLA