



## BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 621495

December 2, 2021

Her Worship Lisa Helps  
Mayor of the City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria BC V8W 1P6  
Email: [LHelps@victoria.ca](mailto:LHelps@victoria.ca)

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 4, 2021, regarding the Capital Region's Functional Zero Working Group and plan. I appreciate your follow-up to our recent meeting and apologize for the delay in responding.

I am grateful for the Province's partnership with the City of Victoria, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (GVCEH), and the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) in addressing and reducing homelessness in the Capital Region.

As you know, the Attorney General and Ministry Responsible for Housing is leading the Province's work to develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent and reduce homelessness in British Columbia. The vision is for this strategy to become a pathway to wider social inclusion and to systems and communities that meet the needs of all people living in British Columbia. This strategy will be grounded in the spirit of reconciliation, including an understanding that the impacts of colonialism are responsible for the disproportionate representation of Indigenous peoples in homelessness, and that it is up to government to play a role in addressing those impacts.

The strategy is under development and I look forward to sharing more information about next steps in the coming months. While this strategy will set an overall provincial approach to homelessness, we know many of the solutions to homelessness are to be found at the local level through partnerships and working together.

In the Capital Region, BC Housing will continue to work closely with local governments as well as the Functional Zero Working Group, GVCEH and ACEH. BC Housing has also allocated annual consulting funding to support the ACEH to assist in building capacity with Indigenous housing providers on Vancouver Island. In addition, you will also be aware that the Province is providing funding in partnership with the federal government through the Safe Restart Strengthening Communities' Services fund to the City of Victoria to support the urgent needs of unsheltered populations through work with partners such as GVCEH, ACEH and BC Housing.

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Thank you again for the proactive and collaborative approach you have taken on this critical issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Eby', written in a cursive style.

David Eby, QC  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing