



## BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 627573

April 26, 2022

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

Dear Mayor Helps and City Council:

Thank you for your continued interest and support in building affordable housing in Victoria. I am writing to you today in my capacity as Minister Responsible for Housing, to express my support for a proposed purpose-built rental housing development at 1025 Kings Road in Victoria, and the much-needed below-market rental units that it will offer.

As you know, affordable rental housing in the Victoria area is urgently needed as options have not kept pace with population growth in the area, which is expected to increase by nearly 40,000 over the next decade. To keep up with this growth, we must swiftly take measures to preserve the existing supply of primary rental housing while also increasing density. If we do not keep up with affordable housing supply, it results in increasing levels of displacement, eviction, and homelessness, which impacts all of us.

The Province is committed to solving the housing crisis and, beginning in 2018, we have been implementing a plan to build the homes that people need through the largest investment in affordable housing in British Columbia's history. However, we cannot do this work alone, and partnerships with the non-profit and private sectors are an important part of increasing the supply of affordable rental housing.

People who provide essential services, such as teachers, first responders and retail workers, are finding they have to live further away from their jobs because of the housing affordability crisis. This leads to long commutes, a decreased quality of life and further erosion of healthy, livable communities. Projects like 1025 Kings Road would provide the homes that low- and middle-income individuals and families need to continue to live and work in the Victoria area, with 10 per cent of units expected to have rents at approximately 40 per cent below market. Additionally, the proximity of several nearby transit corridors, and a Modo car share membership offered to each of the proposed 56 units, will help reduce the stress of long commutes for residents, while promoting more affordable vehicle-free, or reduced vehicle usage, options.

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Thank you for recognizing the critical need to build primary rental units like those proposed for 1025 Kings Road.

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