



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 625362

February 24, 2022

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

Dear Mayor Helps:

I am writing to share my support of the City of Victoria's Missing Middle Housing Initiative. As you know, greater density and mixed uses play a critical role in building more affordable, resilient, healthier, and greener communities for everyone. I am pleased to hear that the City of Victoria is considering options for streamlining development for townhouses and house-plexes, which will ensure families, seniors and other households have access to much-needed affordable housing in their communities.

As you know, a critical shortage in housing supply is a contributing factor to rising housing costs. The Province is focused on working closely with local governments, developers and housing advocates to get the right housing built for communities as quickly as possible, and we have taken some important foundational steps in this work. In the fall, we made legislative changes to help local governments move developments forward more efficiently and remove unnecessary barriers to housing approvals by revising public hearing requirements for zoning matters that are consistent with Official Community Plans and giving elected officials the ability to delegate decisions on minor development variance permits to staff. The goals of the Missing Middle Housing Initiative closely align with those of the Province.

I encourage you to partner with BC Housing's HousingHub division to help bring more affordable housing options for the missing middle to Victoria. The HousingHub can provide low-cost financing along with expertise and advice on planning and development. Its Affordable Home Ownership Program can support the development of affordable homeownership options for middle-income individuals and families. If you or council require additional information on HousingHub, please contact Raymond Kwong, Provincial Director for the HousingHub: rkwong@bchousing.org.

.../2

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Page 2

Rising housing costs are a generation-defining issue that requires collaboration from all levels of government. I look forward to our continued work with the City of Victoria to build housing that meets the needs of all people living in your community. Please continue to advocate at the federal level, so all levels of government work together 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