



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Laurel Collins

Member of Parliament | députée
Victoria

March 2, 2022

To Mayor and Council:

I am writing to express my support for The Missing Middle Housing Initiative, and in particular my support for making it easier to build houseplexes and townhouses with family-sized units.

The housing crisis is the issue I hear about the most from residents in our region. I frequently speak to parents with young children who are feeling pushed out of our city. There are too many families that are struggling to find housing that meets their needs, and it is especially difficult to find 3- and 4-bedroom units.

Housing is scarce and expensive in cities across Canada, and our community has the third highest rents and one of the lowest vacancy rates in Canada. There is no one cause of the housing crisis, and so there is also no one solution, but we do need to dramatically increase the number of homes for people to rent and buy. While missing middle housing will not fix the crisis, it can be one in the suite of needed policies that encourages the creation of higher density housing and makes more units available.

All levels of government need to implement policies to address the housing crisis. I will continue to push the federal government to take the actions needed to tackle housing affordability, as the federal government should be contributing the majority of the funding required to address this crisis. To help families find a home they can afford, my New Democrat colleagues and I are pushing the federal government to invest in building cooperative housing, rent-geared-to-income units, and truly affordable housing – including investments in building 500,000 affordable homes. We are also pushing the government to tackle speculative investment, advocating for a federal foreign buyers tax, to implement a flipping tax, and to ban blind bidding.

We need to use every tool at our disposal to address this critical issue. I was glad to hear that the City is considering taking meaningful action on missing middle zoning, and I hope this initiative moves forward. I am grateful that the City of Victoria has continued to take steps to use municipal housing policy to build more inclusive communities.

Warmly,

Laurel Collins
MP for Victoria

<p>Ottawa House of Commons Chambre des communes Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6 Tel.: 613-996-2358</p>	<p>Victoria 1057 Fort Street, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 3K5 Tel.: 250-363-3600 Fax: 250-363-8422</p>
<p>Laurel.Collins@parl.gc.ca</p>	