



Making a difference...together

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June 3, 2022

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Purpose-Built, Affordable Rental Project: 131/135/139 Menzies Street

I wish first to commend the City of Victoria (the City) on its movement toward supporting additional affordable housing supply across the City. The leadership shown through the unanimous adoption of bylaws for Rapid Deployment of Affordable Housing in April 2022 is a significant step forward in working toward the goal of expanding Victoria's affordable housing stock.

The Regional Housing First Program (RHFP) is just one important example of a program that has been instrumental in increasing the purpose-built affordable rental housing supply within the City and across the capital region. It was reported to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board in April 2022 that the RHFP has supported a total of 11 projects. These projects have added 1,055 units of affordable rental housing to the region, with 238 of these units being rented to households at the rates set through the BC Income Assistance Maximum Shelter Allowance.

The RHFP's Project Selection Committee (PSC) has received a proposal for a purpose-built affordable rental housing project at 131/135/139 Menzies Street, Victoria, BC and recommended the proposal be further considered by the CRD Board. Critically, the RHFP PSC noted the following:

- The proposal met the criteria of the RHFP and scored very high; and,
- The proposed affordable rental housing was well located, included a desirable mix of units and achieved the required levels of affordability under the RHFP.

The PSC identified that the proposed project was a strong candidate for the RHFP, but also acknowledged there was a timeline risk should it not be underway by the end of 2022 as required under the program.

Identifying opportunities to expedite the process for the purpose-built affordable rental housing for the proposed project at 131/135/139 Menzies Street will enable it to continue to advance through the RHFP process. If this project is approved by the CRD Board, it will add another important building to further increase the supply of affordable housing in the City.

The team at Mike Geric Construction Ltd. has been a strong partner in working collaboratively with the CRD to increase affordable rental housing supply and we look forward to any and all opportunities to work toward advancing this project within the timelines set through the RHFP.

Thank you so much for your continued work in advancing this much-needed housing.

Sincerely,

Don Elliott
Senior Manager, Regional Housing