



September 15, 2015

To: Mayor and City Council
Victoria, BC.

From: The Committee to End Homelessness Victoria

Re: Support for Greater Victoria's Regional Housing First Strategy

On behalf of the Committee to End Homelessness Victoria, I would like to congratulate you for this bold initiative. We whole-heartedly support the proposal to borrow \$50 million to build 367 units of housing with supports, and will work with you as best we can to make this proposal a reality.

For only \$11.18 per household over the next few years, we could at last move ahead.

Our unhoused members frequently tell us they need homes, not tents, because having a front door with a key is the first step to independence and stability.

Everybody has a right to housing and this is Greater Victoria's opportunity.

Let's do it!

Alison Acker
Committee to End Homelessness Victoria



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16 September 2015

City Hall
1 Centennial Square
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[via email]

ATTN: Mayor and Council

To: Members of the Governance and Priorities Committee

RE: Council Member Motion – Regional Housing First Strategy

I write to express the unequivocal support of Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS) for this motion. Victoria's low-income and most vulnerable community members are dying on our streets due to the lack of affordable, supportive housing and action must be taken. Although a lot of good work has been done in our region to address our homelessness crisis, we are still facing a significant shortage of affordable, supportive housing. It is only through a bold approach such as the one outlined in this motion that we will truly be able to end the crisis occurring on our streets.

We are particularly impressed with the emphasis on supportive housing, as it is only with adequate supports that some of Victoria's most vulnerable citizens, those with mental health and addictions issues, will be successful in their housing.

Given that the federal government has virtually withdrawn from the affordable housing portfolio and the provincial government has refused to increase shelter amounts for income assistance recipients that reflect the true cost of housing, it is left to our municipal representatives to take action.

We commend Mayor Helps and Councillors Loveday and Isitt for showing leadership on this issue and presenting a bold, practical plan to the citizens of Victoria.

Sincerely,

Kelly Newhook,
Executive Director, TAPS

*Supported by:
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