



December 1, 2017

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

Re: Zoning Bylaw Review

Mayor and Council –

UDI Capital Region has met and engaged with staff numerous times over the past year regarding the zoning bylaw review. We would like to thank staff for their open dialogue and willingness to share information. We are aware of the amount of work that has gone into drafting this bylaw and would like to see this come to fruition – not only for the sake of staff but for the development industry as well.

UDI believes that staff have executed a thoughtful, thorough review process; and they have taken a convoluted bylaw and simplified the regulations. This shows progressive forethought and a willingness to embrace the bustling market that Victoria is experiencing. Within this draft bylaw there is more flexibility and added uses and definitions. The changes to the bylaw will enhance the vibrancy of the downtown core, generate tourism, create jobs and help fill vacant retail space.

Staff have invested many hours of work and meetings to engage the industry. Many UDI members are awaiting final approval of this revised bylaw. Some developers are with-holding further advancements of projects due to the uncertainty of the timing for the revised bylaw changes to take place. To hold this bylaw up, with further discussion, will only create more uncertainty in the development industry and prolong the permit process for some developers.

Staff and council should be commended for recognizing that the City of Victoria is evolving – is a small city coming into its own. With this evolution comes opportunity, growth and vibrancy. UDI looks forward to our continued collaboration.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Hogan".

Kathy Hogan
(on behalf of the UDI Capital Region Board of Directors)