



September 25, 2017

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Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps  
Victoria Mayor  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter of April 5, 2017, addressed to the Office of the Premier, requesting that the Provincial Government consider a vacancy tax to help address housing affordability issues.

The BC Government's top priority is to make life more affordable for British Columbians. That includes improving housing affordability for renters and buyers. Over the months ahead, we will take action to deliver on our commitments. This will include considering Victoria City Council's request to extend tax authority for vacant and derelict residential buildings to local governments.

I would like to thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Carole James  
Minister and Deputy Premier

cc: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Jacquie Dawes, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing