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Victoria, BC V8V 2V8

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

June 21, 2017

**Re: Demolition Moratorium**

Dear Mayor and Council,

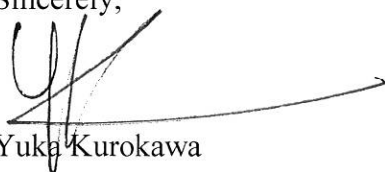
I am writing to express my support for a moratorium on the demolition of existing residential rental buildings with more than four dwelling units in the City of Victoria.

As a renter with a middle-income earning job, I am personally experiencing the challenges of finding an affordable and appropriate place to live. The building that I live in has recently changed ownership, and the new landlord has elected not to renew my fixed term lease. For the last several months I have been anxiously searching for a place in the little and vastly unaffordable stock available. I have serious concerns that I will not secure a new place to live before my lease ends next month. At this point in time, the demolition of any rental buildings would only serve to lower vacancy rates and over inflate the cost of the stock that remains, making housing even more inaccessible than it already is.

In my work as an advocate for tenant rights, I speak daily with low-income tenants and tenants living in poverty who are disproportionately negatively impacted by the housing crisis. For this population, having safe, secure, and affordable housing is critical for their health and wellbeing. While temporarily preventing the demolition of rental buildings will not resolve all of the complex personal, social, and political factors that perpetuate homelessness, implementing this moratorium will be one way of protecting low income renters.

As a citizen of Victoria, I am concerned to hear narratives from other residents that puts renters' rights at the margins. Renters make up a large part of the city's population, and our interests must be made a priority. I want to live in a community that is diverse and vibrant, where people of all identities, incomes, and experiences are able to live and thrive. I believe that a demolition moratorium, along with the proposed policy priorities that seek to protect housing stock, set standards of maintenance, and considers increased protections for tenants, will serve to promote this type of community.

Sincerely,



Yuka Kurokawa