



Reference: 224748/223869

October 26, 2016

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2016, regarding Emily Carr House. It was also a pleasure meeting with you and Councillor Margaret Lucas on Friday, September 30, 2016, to discuss recent public concerns regarding the future of Emily Carr House.

As we discussed, the site operator (Jan Ross–Clio Arts Associates Ltd.) has a contract with the Province of British Columbia's Heritage Branch, to operate Emily Carr House until March 2018. Approximately six months prior to this date, a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued to allow all interested individuals/groups an opportunity to submit bids for tenure. Issuing an RFP at the end of a contract is normal practice and does not suggest dissatisfaction with the site operator.

The province will be seeking creative proposals for a non-commercial tenure that will move the property toward financial sustainability while continuing to provide a public access component. Provincial support for major maintenance items will be maintained, as has been the case with other recent tenures of provincially-owned heritage property.

I hope our meeting, in conjunction with this follow-up letter, provides a level of comfort to you and others that Emily Carr House remains a valued asset within the provincial portfolio of historic sites.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson
Minister

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia