

LANA POPHAM, M.L.A.

Saanich South

Constituency Office

B -4085 Quadra Street

Victoria, B.C. V8X 1K5

Telephone: 250 479 4154

Facsimile: 250 479 4176

Email: lana.popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca



Lana Popham, MLA
(Saanich South)

April 28, 2016

Mayor Helps & Council

City of Victoria

1 Centennial Square

Victoria, BC

V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps & Council,

I am writing to you today on behalf of twenty three families living in Saanich South who have children attending Christ Church Cathedral School, located at 912 Vancouver St. in Victoria. These families have many questions and concerns regarding the temporary transitional housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building, adjacent to the school and feel their concerns have not been adequately addressed.

As you may be aware, the decision to convert this property into low-barrier housing for the homeless has caught many parents, the school and residents off guard. My constituents would like to be assured that they are included in the community consultation process. I have included with this letter a list of their concerns and questions regarding the housing facility at Mount Edwards and on their behalf, ask that city staff provide a response to their questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lana Popham'.

Lana Popham

MLA Saanich South

cc. Joanne Macdonald

**QUESTIONS FROM CONCERNED PARENTS
REGARDING THE MOUNT EDWARDS FACILITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD**

- 1. What is the process for determining what happens on the Mt Edwards site when the operating agreement as temporary transitional housing expires in March 2017?**
- 2. What is the time line for (1) submitting proposals, (2) community review, (3) community input and proposals, and (4) zoning reviews?**
- 3. Will extra foot patrols be conducted by Vic PD? If so, when and how often?**
- 4. Will the Vic PD provide extra security when Cathedral School has a school function outside of regular school hours?**

Examples of upcoming events are:

- Spring Concert
- Dances
- Talent Show
- Spring Fair
- Field trips, for example, students attending WE Day in Vancouver will have departure and return after regular school hours
- Daycare provided during school holidays and summer vacation

- 5. Will additional lighting be installed in Pioneer Square Park?**
- 6. Will an additional crosswalk be installed on Vancouver St. near Cathedral School?**

The only crosswalk on Vancouver St. near Cathedral School is positioned directly in front of Mt Edwards. There is no other crosswalk on Vancouver St. to get to Cathedral School until Fairfield Rd, which is 0.5 kilometres (5 blocks) south of Cathedral School.

- 7. Is the City considering implementing a “no go” zone for proximity of marijuana dispensaries near schools to align with the guidelines being suggested by the Federal government.**

If so will the city consider implementing a 500 meter “no go” zone around school that includes low barrier wet shelters, liquor stores, bars and marijuana dispensaries?

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/info/licencedproducer-producteurautorise/local-eng.php>

- 8. We request Rockland Ave be re-opened to thru traffic in one direction to allow more movement on the street, thereby discouraging loitering and crossing over to Cathedral School grounds.**

When can we hear back about this request and or what additional requirements would you seek from the community to move forward on this request?

The closure of the east end of Rockland Ave occurred before anyone was aware that the Mt Edwards facility was even contemplated. If the City is concerned about the loss of the one-half block of bike path, will Rockland Ave be re-opened as a One-Way street for that half-block to preserve the new bike path?

On April 6 several grade 7 students witnessed a police arrest take place on Rockland Avenue, outside the window of their classroom which looks over this closed off street. More thru-traffic is known to reduce loitering and crime.