



September 4, 2020

VIA EMAIL: MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Room 310 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Robinson,

Re: Navigation Centre – City of Nanaimo

At the Regular Council meeting of 31-AUG-2020, The City of Nanaimo Council passed the following motion:

"It was moved and seconded that Council authorize the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the City of Nanaimo's interest in hosting a Navigation Centre in Nanaimo for people who are experiencing homelessness that involved an agreement with Island Health to provide an adequate level of "integrated clinical health supports."

It is our understanding that BC Housing recently announced \$4.5 million over three years to support a Navigation Centre in the City of Vancouver. The announcement noted a second Navigation Centre is anticipated for Vancouver Island. On behalf of Council, I am requesting the City of Nanaimo be considered for the Vancouver Island Navigation Centre location.

The need for additional housing with health and wellness supports in Nanaimo is evident. The 2020-MAR-12 Point in Time (PIT) count documented 425 people living unsheltered in Nanaimo. This represents a 25% increase in the number of homeless in Nanaimo from the 2018 count. Organizations working directly with unsheltered individuals estimate the number of homeless in Nanaimo to be closer to 600. Nanaimo's two existing emergency homeless shelters have reported shelters are generally filled to capacity on a nightly basis and noted the need for additional shelter.

The necessity for more overnight shelter beds, daytime space and greater outreach and supports is identified within Nanaimo's Action Plan to End Homelessness (2019-2023) and the ongoing systems planning work to support a Health and Housing Action Plan.

The City of Nanaimo strongly believes that in order for the Navigation Centre to be successful a commitment for the provision of adequate integrated clinical health and other supports is essential. The City is committed to working with BC Housing, Island Health and local service providers to ensure these supports are in place for Navigation Centre tenants. If selected to host a Centre, City staff and Council are prepared to work with BC Housing and the operator (once selected) in finding and supporting a suitable location for the Centre.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Krog". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Leonard Krog
M A Y O R

CC: Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services City of Nanaimo, dale.lindsay@nanaimo.ca
Heidi Hartman, Regional Director, BC Housing, hartman@bchousing.org
Lisa Murphy, Director of Mental Health and Substance Use, Island Health, Lisa.Murphy@viha.ca