

January 27, 2021

Mayor Leonard Krog and Council
City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6

Re: Letter to Minister Malcolmson Regarding Establishing Treatment Facilities and Complex Care Housing in the Regional District of Nanaimo

Dear Mayor Krog and Council:

At the January 26, 2021 meeting of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board, the following motion was passed:

That correspondence be sent to The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, requesting that the following be built within the Regional District of Nanaimo:

- a. Adequate levels of treatment, recovery, detox and after-care facilities; and*
- b. Complex care housing for our citizens that need more intensive care than supportive housing.*

A related resolution was also passed at the January 26, 2021 Board meeting directing that correspondence be sent to the Mayor and Council of the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville, City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach seeking their support by requesting they write similar letters on behalf of their respective Councils to Minister Malcolmson.

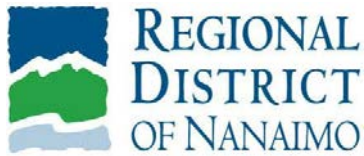
Accordingly, on behalf of the RDN Board, I enclose the Board's letter to Minister Malcolmson and would ask that you consider sending similar correspondence on behalf of your Council as part of a collective and unified endeavour to maintain this urgent and significant issue at the forefront of the provincial agenda. I am grateful for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tyler Brown, Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo

Attachment: Letter to The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions



January 28, 2021

The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
PO Box 9644 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9P1

Re: Health Facilities and Complex Care Housing in the Regional District of Nanaimo

Dear Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the Regional District of Nanaimo Board to request that the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Ministry of Health, and Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing work together to establish health facilities within the Regional District of Nanaimo to provide adequate levels of treatment, including for recovery, detox and after-care, as well as complex care housing for our citizens who urgently need more intensive care than supportive housing. This request aligns with priorities outlined in Premier Horgan's mandate letter to you dated November 26, 2020.

As has been highlighted and exacerbated by the pandemic, an entire continuum of services, including specialized medical support, is required to address the crisis of people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. While strategies such as increased availability of affordable housing and the enhanced shelter model of the proposed Navigation Centre contribute to addressing aspects of this complex social challenge, the issue is not only a housing crisis but is equally a health crisis, requiring the full spectrum of therapeutic response and expertise.

Establishing such health facilities would greatly assist in addressing the underlying and often significant health-related challenges experienced by this population in a responsive, compassionate and ultimately cost-effective manner more likely to achieve long term and sustainable resolutions with immeasurable benefits for individuals and communities.

On behalf of the RDN Board, I am grateful for your consideration of this matter. If I can serve as a resource, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tyler Brown".

Tyler Brown, Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo

cc: The Honourable John Horgan, MLA, Premier of British Columbia
The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs
The Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing
The Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Doug Routley, MLA, Nanaimo - North Cowichan
Adam Walker, MLA, Parksville - Qualicum