

ATTACHMENT D

Part 1 of 2



2021-FEB-12

Via Email: jason.harrison@cmha.bc.ca, yvonne.borrows@salvationarmy.ca

Jason Harrison, Co-Chair, Nanaimo Homeless Coalition
Yvonne Borrows, Co-Chair, Nanaimo Homeless Coalition
9 – 327 Prideaux Street
Nanaimo BC V9R 2N4

Dear Jason and Yvonne:

RE: TEMPORARY HOUSING SITES IN NANAIMO

This letter is in response to recent direction from City of Nanaimo Council and the ongoing homelessness that we are experiencing in our community. As you are well aware, the City of Nanaimo, BC Housing and not for profit operators have worked collaboratively on supporting both existing and proposed supportive housing projects in the Community. We are also thankful the Province and BC Housing have selected Nanaimo as a location for the second Navigation Centre in B.C.

While we remain positive that these existing commitments and investments will help address the problem, there are, as you know, many people in our community who are experiencing homelessness today.

The City is aware that communities around the Province are considering different models to address this complex problem, including a recent initiative in Cowichan to provide small cabin spaces in managed clusters. In response to the above-noted challenges, Council has directed staff investigate this housing model, and at their recent meeting of 2021-FEB-01, unanimously passed the following motion:

"It was moved and seconded that a report be prepared as quickly as possible outlining options for implementing a temporary emergency accommodation program, similar to the Cowichan Housing model, in Nanaimo and the report include:

1. The capital costs for 2-3 pilot locations and potential funding sources;
2. The estimated monthly operation costs, potential funding sources, and potential operators; and
3. Any opportunities for community collaboration and comment from appropriate City departments, the RCMP and community agencies."

We understand that Federal Reaching Home Funds have been used to construct the temporary units in Cowichan, and that BC housing has provided operating funds to support these sites.

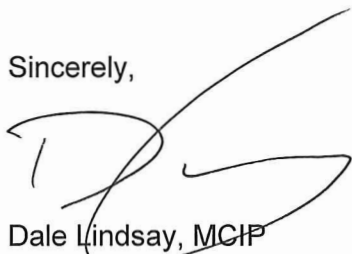
Based on the above, we would request Nanaimo Homeless Coalition's (NHC) comments with respect to the establishment of similar temporary housing sites in Nanaimo. In order to respond to Council's direction, we would appreciate the NHC's response to the following questions:

- A. What is NHC's position with respect to the establishment of temporary emergency accommodation, similar to sites underway in Cowichan?
- B. Does NHC have any recommendations with respect to the establishment or operations of temporary emergency accommodations, such as those in Cowichan?
- C. Would NHC support in the principle use of existing or future Reaching Home Funds for the capital and/or operating of these sites?

For your information, we will also be reaching out to existing housing operators in the Community to seek their input and specifically any comments with respect to the capacity to support 2-3 sites.

We thank you in advance for your response. If you have any questions or if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 755-4493 or dale.lindsay@nanaimo.ca.

Sincerely,



Dale Lindsay, MCIP
General Manager
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DL/kb/mr

cc: Jake Rudolph, CAO, City of Nanaimo
Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development
Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning

ATTACHMENT D

Part 2 of 2



April 6, 2021

Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Development Services
City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6

Re: Temporary Housing Sites in Nanaimo

Dear Mr Lindsay,

The Nanaimo Homeless Coalition thanks the City of Nanaimo for requesting our collective input during the exploration phase of temporary housing responses in our community.

A small group of leaders from the Coalition met with representatives of the project in Cowichan Valley. We also distributed a survey broadly to members of the Coalition in regards to our then draft response and provided the opportunity to members of the Coalition to discuss this topic at the recent NHC Meeting on April 1, 2021

Below are our responses to the three questions posed to us for our consideration and input.

A. What is NHC's position with respect to the establishment of temporary emergency accommodation, similar to sites underway in Cowichan?

The Nanaimo Homeless Coalition supports in principle all thoughtful, community-engaged, supported and funded responses to homelessness. These temporary and transitional shelter options should be considered part of the continuum of support to those experiencing homelessness in conjunction with a broader plan.

B. Does NHC have any recommendations with respect to the establishment or operations of temporary emergency accommodations, such as those in Cowichan?

- The establishment of any such accommodations and related operating expectations should be done through authentic engagement with various community stakeholder representatives including, but not limited to, Snuneymuxw FN, PWLE, NHC, Chamber of Commerce, School District 68, RCMP, Island Health, MSDPR, Neighbourhood Associations.
- Staffing and support funding must be adequate and complementary to the level of need of the intended residents.
- A project of this type should be short to medium-term in duration and part of a larger transitional plan to permanent housing opportunities.
- We should not delay progress on these types of solutions because the larger goals are still in development, but they must be accounted for as we develop the broader plan.
- Innovative models in other Canadian communities should be investigated.

C. Would NHC support in the principle use of existing or future Reaching Home Funds for the capital and/or operating of these sites?

The Nanaimo Homeless Coalition would, in principle, consider the use of existing or future Reaching Home funds for the establishment and support of all innovative community solutions to homelessness.

Once again, we are grateful for our inclusion in this process and look forward to future collaboration in addressing shared community challenges.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

Jason Harrison
Co-Chair, Nanaimo Homeless Coalition