

ATTACHMENT G

Part 1 of 2



2021-FEB-10

Via Email: hhartman@bchousing.org

BC Housing
Attention: Heidi Hartman, Regional Director
Vancouver Island Region Office
201 3440 Douglas Street
Victoria BC V8Z 3L5

Dear Heidi:

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 and BC Housing have worked collaboratively on the provision of temporary housing of those individuals from the 1 Port Drive Tent City and are actively moving forward with the implementation of our MOU that will result in permanent supportive and non-market housing solutions. We also acknowledge that BC Housing has funded a second overnight shelter in the community and recently established a COVID Emergency Response Centre in the City's Community Services Building. We are also thankful the Province and BC Housing have selected Nanaimo as a location for the second Navigation Centre in B.C. and look forward to working with you and your team to bring this to fruition.

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. Since the closure of the tent city on Wesley Street, there has been a dispersal of homeless individuals throughout the community. In addition to the challenges for people to find appropriate shelter, this dispersal of homeless individuals has placed additional strain on our existing City services, including Bylaw, Parks Maintenance, and Sanitation.

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.”

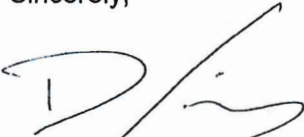
We understand that Federal Reaching Home Funds have been used to construct the temporary units in Cowichan, and that BC housing has provided operating funds to support these sites.

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

- A) What is BC Housing's position with respect to the establishment of temporary emergency accommodation, similar to sites underway in Cowichan?
- B) Does BC Housing have the ability to fund capital and/or operations of 2-3 temporary emergency sites in Nanaimo?

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

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

ATTACHMENT G

Part 2 of 2



March 12, 2021

City of Nanaimo
Attention: Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
411 Dunsmuir Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
Via email: Oceansidehomelessness@gmail.com

Dear Dale,

Re: Temporary Housing sites in Nanaimo

Thank you for your letter dated February 10, 2021 indicating your interest in potentially developing temporary housing sites for those experiencing homelessness in Nanaimo.

It is typically BC Housing's preference to fund permanent, purpose-built solutions to address housing and homelessness issues. However, we do recognize that sometimes – particularly with the constraints of COVID-19 --- innovative, short-term solutions can be helpful as interim measures. The tenting cabin sites in Duncan and the new tiny home village in Victoria are two examples of these temporary accommodation sites which we have recently supported.

When we look at funding such activities, we are looking to operate as part of a partnership model. This typically means that the municipal government provides the land, and capital funding is provided by other parties such as the federal government or private donors. BC Housing then contributes a portion of operating costs. Therefore, we would be amenable to potentially contributing a portion of operating costs if you were to move ahead with such an initiative.

We appreciate your proactive efforts to address homelessness in Nanaimo through temporary sites. If you would like more information, I would be happy to meet with you to discuss.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hartman".

Heidi Hartman
Regional Director– Vancouver Island
hhartman@bchousing.org

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