

January 27, 2022

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

**Re: Complex Care Housing in the Regional District of Nanaimo**

Dear Minister:

In response to the Province's recent announcement about the first complex care housing sites to be opened in Vancouver, Surrey and Abbotsford, I am writing on behalf of the Regional District of Nanaimo Board to say how pleased we are that these important steps are being taken, and that recommendations from the BC Urban Mayors' Caucus have been considered and integrated into the model. It is our request that this program be expanded to include the Regional District of Nanaimo. The urgent need for complex care housing within the Regional District of Nanaimo has only grown since the Regional District's January 28, 2021, request to you for such health facilities.

In line with the statement of January 20, 2020, from the BC Urban Mayors' Caucus, I note that many communities are in critical need of such facilities to enable the provision of 24/7 intensive supports and tailored care plans, including a commitment to permanent complex care housing for citizens who desperately need more intensive care than supportive housing. Such a step would be an immeasurable benefit to the individuals affected and to our communities which are so seriously impacted by this multifaceted social and health issue.

Realizing that part of the rationale for beginning with the current four sites is the relative ease with which the model can be launched quickly by upgrading portions of existing or planned supportive housing spaces, it is hoped that funding will be committed in the upcoming provincial budget to expand complex care housing to other communities with significant demonstrated need.

On behalf of the RDN Board, please accept this expression of our appreciation and recognition for this important step taken by the Province to help British Columbia residents, and let me echo the BC Urban Mayors' Caucus in asking that this program be expanded as soon as possible. Innovative projects such as these are achieved in partnership with health agencies, local governments, not-for-profit providers and community groups. I would be pleased to serve as a resource to help build these linkages in our region and would like to meet with you to help facilitate the siting of complex care housing within the Regional District of Nanaimo.

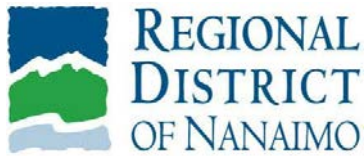
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tyler Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tyler" and last name "Brown" clearly distinguishable.

Tyler Brown, Chair  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
250-713-5781

Encl.

cc:       The Honourable John Horgan, MLA, Premier of British Columbia  
          The Honourable John 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  
          Dr. Sandra Allison, Medical Health Officer, Central Vancouver Island  
          His Worship Leonard Krog, Mayor of City of Nanaimo  
          His Worship Brian Wiese, Mayor of Town of Qualicum Beach  
          His Worship Mark Swain, Mayor of District of Lantzville  
          His Worship Ed Mayne, Mayor of City of Parksville  
          BC Urban Mayors' Caucus



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