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April 29, 2016

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos MP
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi MP
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers Duclos and Sohi,

I have written to you previously about the immediate need for federal housing investments in the Greater Victoria region. I am heartened by the funding in the Federal Budget and the first steps it takes to address Canada's growing housing affordability crisis. I am writing again to urge you to support our region's efforts to develop new housing in short order.

Our community has been pulling together to develop long-term housing solutions to meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens but we need the support of federal government in matching the regional and provincial government's capital funding commitment. Just last December, the Capital Regional District in support of a Regional Housing First Strategy, stepped up with an investment of \$30 million in capital funding to develop affordable and supportive housing. The provincial government has since made a commitment to match this investment, but more is needed.

Today I am asking your government to match this commitment and to do so immediately. With a matching investment from the federal government, we can take action now to help our most vulnerable citizens. The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, a local government and stakeholder driven organization, has identified priority projects that can get off the ground immediately and start providing support to those in the greatest need. In addition, the region anticipates releasing a Call for Proposals in



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September, 2016 to identify additional 'shovel ready' projects in support of those facing a range of barriers to housing.

Since writing to you in February, the report of the Point-in-Time Count for the Greater Victoria region has been released. The count and survey, conducted on February 10, 2016, shows that at least 1,387 people were experiencing homelessness, it confirms that the number of people experiencing homelessness in our region continues to increase each year, and also confirms that unaffordable housing is a major factor as to why people are without a safe place to call home.

As you well know, years of federal inaction on this file have brought us to the crisis we are experiencing today. I appreciate that your government did not create this crisis but you now have the opportunity to help solve it.

I would be pleased to arrange a more detailed briefing with leaders in our community should that be helpful.

Yours truly,



Murray Rankin

Copy:

Victoria Mayor Council

Victoria Beacon Hill MLA Carole James

Victoria Swan Lake MLA Rob Fleming

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

Victoria Downtown Services Providers

Adam Vaughn, Member of Parliament, Spadina-Fort York