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To: [Cheryl Hardisty](#)
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His Worship John Vassilaki
Mayor of the City of Penticton
Email: Cheryl.Hardisty@penticton.ca

Dear Mayor John Vassilaki:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 13 and March 11, 2021, concerning the supportive housing project at 3240 Skaha Lake Road.

I have also been following your and Council's comments at public meetings and in media reports, as well as public concerns and media in Penticton about camping and temporary structures in parks and parking lots due to an ongoing and unaddressed significant unhoused population in your community. I hope that this letter addresses some of your concerns, and the concerns of those in Penticton alarmed by the increasing presence of tents and temporary structures in Penticton being addressed by bylaw officers.

Our government recognizes there is a need for supportive housing across the province, including Penticton. I understand that BC Housing staff are in regular contact with City of Penticton staff regarding the supportive housing project at 3240 Skaha Lake Road. As you are aware, the site was selected based on discussions with City staff and to address the immediate needs in the community. As of January 1, 2021, there were 180 applicants on the Supportive Housing Registry in Penticton and most of the affordable housing in Penticton is restricted to seniors.

As you note in your letters, BC Housing has previously provided detailed information on the community engagement plan for this project. BC Housing has a well-established process for community engagement. I encourage community members to communicate with BC Housing and find updated information through their website at: <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/penticton-3240-skaha>.

Regarding the evaluation of existing supportive housing sites, as I have mentioned previously, BC Housing has committed to a third-party review of three of the supportive housing sites in Penticton (Burdock House, Fairhaven and Compass Court), as is standard practice. BC Housing is now proceeding with that review of these sites. Staff from BC Housing have been in regular contact with their City counterparts and will continue to share updates as this work progresses.

While the reviews of the supportive housing sites will incorporate a range of data, I can confirm that the Province will continue to base decisions on supportive housing services on community need.

As you know, homelessness is a complex issue, and the Province and BC Housing will continue to work toward building and fostering community trust and support for the integration of new supportive housing into the community.

Yours truly,

David Eby, QC

Attorney General and
Minister Responsible for Housing

pc: The Honourable John Horgan
The Honourable Adrian Dix, QC

The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
The Honourable Josie Osborne