



March 19, 2021

City of Penticton
171 Main Street
Penticton, B.C.
V2A 5A9

Attention: The Mayor and Council

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Re: 352 Winnipeg Street, Penticton (the "Property")

I am writing to confirm BC Housing's intention to continue to operate the 42-bed emergency shelter located at the Property (the "**Shelter**"), notwithstanding the recent decision of Penticton City council not to renew Temporary Use Permit PL2020-8834 (the "**TUP**").

BC Housing is acutely aware of the current need to provide supportive housing to Penticton's residents who do not have access to adequate shelter. We are committed to ensuring that the 42 individuals who are currently housed at the Shelter are not forced to vacate the Shelter at this time, which we believe will be the outcome of the City's unwillingness to renew the TUP.

I refer you again to my letter of March 8, 2021 in which I made it clear that the Province of British Columbia is required, in the course of its duty to serve the public good, to ensure the health and safety of its citizens.

In that context, BC Housing, as a Crown corporation, is required to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the 42 individuals who are currently staying at the Shelter continue to receive the appropriate care and supports, and do not end up living in unsafe situations subject to the adverse health and social impacts that their being forced out of the Shelter would entail.

As you know, BC Housing is working with all stakeholders to address, in the longer term, the current state of homelessness in Penticton. In the meantime, there is a pressing and urgent need, as a matter of public policy, to ensure that the Shelter is maintained for a limited period of one more year.

This will prevent an increased number of the City's residents being forced onto the streets of Penticton, which could potentially lead to an encampment being set up in one of the City's public spaces. This is an outcome that is not in the interests of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the City of Penticton, or indeed of the population of the City at large.

Clearly the sentiments of council and the Penticton community at large, along with the powers of the City with respect to the use of land in Penticton, need to be considered in this instance.

However, on a balance of convenience, it is clear that the interest of maintaining the Shelter for an additional period, and protecting its residents, should prevail.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shayne Ramsay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shayne Ramsay, CEO