



BCNPHA

BC Non-Profit Housing Association

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December 11, 2018

Mayor and Council
District of Kitimat
270 City Centre
Kitimat, BC V8C 2H7

By email: legservicesinfo@tol.ca

Re: OCP Amendment/Rezoning Application – 461 Quatsino Boulevard

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express our organizational support for the OCP Amendment and Rezoning Application requested by the Tamitik Status of Women for the property located at 461 Quatsino Boulevard.

Affordable housing and homelessness are serious issues affecting the District of Kitimat and all levels of government have a role in addressing the complex issues that have brought us to this point. Senior levels of government are actively investing in addressing the issues of housing affordability, supportive housing and homelessness and municipal approval of projects such as this one is critical.

Over the last decade, BCNPHA and BC Society of Transition Houses have partnered on a program of research identifying the barriers to housing for women leaving violent relationships. Women experiencing intimate partner violence often stay in abusive relationships because they do not have access to affordable, safe and secure housing.

Under discussion for two years, this proposal provides a timely solution to provide affordable housing for women and children with an integration of needed supportive services, all in one location. The inclusion of transition and second-stage housing ensures that the TSW can continue to provide support to the women and children in the District who need it the most. This development will provide desperately needed housing; we note that in the first nine months of this year, the TSW had to turn away 71 individuals seeking safe shelter in Kitimat.

The project proposed by Tamitik Status of Women and BC Housing, working with your District staff, will not solve the issues of affordability and homelessness overnight, but it does provide the District with a tremendous opportunity to assist in the development of 44 new temporary and permanent homes, with co-located wrap-around support services.

It is important for all those living in your community to have access to safe, stable, and supportive housing. While we do understand that there will be an impact in the surrounding neighbourhood, evidence from other communities demonstrates that these impacts are largely positive. We are confident that a successful transition can take place and urge Council to move forward with this OCP amendment and rezoning application.

Sincerely,



Jill Atkey
Chief Executive Officer
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BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) is the provincial umbrella organization for the non-profit housing sector. Together non-profit housing societies manage more than 65,000 affordable homes across the province.