

ENDING VIOLENCE

Association of BC

February 27, 2019

Mayor and Council:

Please accept this enthusiastic letter of endorsement for the housing project proposed by Tamitik Status of Women (TSW) and BC Housing for Kitimat.

For over 30 years, the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVABC), has been coordinating and supporting the work of victim-serving and other anti-violence programs in BC. Our organization is deeply familiar with the lack of affordable housing in Kitimat, and the increasing need to provide supports and wraparound anti violence services as part of creating sustainable housing solutions.

We have worked with TSW on many projects over the years, and most recently we have collaborated on the Kitimat and Haisla Community Vitality Advisory Group and Research Team since fall of 2015. The issue of housing is gendered. In our research, we learned about women's challenges with accessing safe housing, and their risk of sexual exploitation by landlords. Women also reported that some rental properties are overcrowded, poorly built, and not well maintained. Of particular concern, women face a number of housing-related barriers to leaving violent situations. Affordable housing reduces the number of children taken into care, and reduces health care and criminal justice costs associated with homelessness.

Most of the women and children Tamitik Status of Women serves are already temporarily or episodically homeless, and many are at high risk of homelessness due to making the difficult, but often life-saving, decision to leave a violent relationship.

Housing is a basic human right, and we all have a responsibility to provide it those who, for a variety of reasons, are in need. I sincerely hope you can support the work and vision of TSW and get behind their proposal. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions.

Respectfully,



Tracy Porteous
Executive Director