



May 19, 2020

Dear Avery Stetski:

I am writing to reaffirm what was communicated in the Burnside Gorge Community Association townhall meeting on May 12, 2020.

As discussed at the townhall meeting, there is an urgency to move people inside from the current dangerous and unsafe conditions at Topaz Park and Pandora Avenue compounded by both the COVID-19 pandemic and the opioid crisis. This is a temporary measure until more permanent supportive housing options can be put in place in partnership with the CRD municipalities. No one will be returned to homelessness.

The lease of the Travelodge and the acquisition of the Comfort Inn on Blanshard Street are examples of these temporary housing options to move folks inside. In the case of the Comfort Inn, we are forming a new Community Advisory Committee to connect with residents, small business owners, and faith-based representatives, and I understand Burnside Gorge Community Association has been invited to participate. The committee will provide important input on the future redevelopment of the property for affordable housing purposes.

BC Housing is fully committed to the terms of the December 1, 2018 agreement including that no increase of supportive housing occur in the Burnside Gorge community. The supportive housing options will follow a distributed model and be developed across the CRD region including the options to move people from both the Travelodge and the Comfort Inn. Any further housing solutions such as affordable family and seniors housing will follow the prescribed zoning process, and we will actively engage with the Burnside Gorge community during that process.

We look forward to continuing to work together.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shayne Ramsay".

Shayne Ramsay  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA