



Making a difference...together

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October 25, 2023

File: 0400-20

Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing
Room 248 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Via email: HOUS.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Kahlon:

RE: SECONDARY SUITE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

At the October 11, 2023, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting a motion was adopted to request that the BC Housing Minister include CRD Electoral Areas in the Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP).

The SSIP is the very assistance that residents of the three CRD Electoral Areas (Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island) need - those that own properties and those that are actively searching for affordable rental housing. Providing forgivable loans of up to \$40,000 will incentivize property owners to create rental suites increasing the number of available affordable housing units that CRD Electoral Areas greatly require. The decision by the Province to exclude Electoral Areas from participating in SSIP will prevent the CRD Electoral Areas from realizing the improvements in increasing affordable housing that will likely be made in other areas of the Province that have access to this program.

This kind of incentive and affordable housing measure is particularly important for rural areas as they do not have the infrastructure or resources for larger scale developments. Including Electoral Areas in the SSIP is simply a matter of equity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Colin Plant
CRD Board Chair

cc: CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Kevin Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services, CRD