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October 31, 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: DRAKE ROAD HOUSING PROJECT ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

At the October 11, 2023, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting a motion was adopted to urge the BC Housing Minister to expedite the completion of the Drake Road supported housing project on Salt Spring Island (SSI), originally proposed by BC Housing in 2019.

The CRD owns the property and the Board agreed to lease it to BC Housing for the purposes of constructing and operating a supportive housing project.

As the project will provide housing for SSI residents who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the community, the Province accelerated the project straight to construction using its authority under the *Interpretation Act* with the goal of the opening to be late summer 2022.

We have recently been advised that this important housing project, that is being built to support the most vulnerable residents on SSI, may not be completed until the end of 2024. While the commitment from BC Housing remains, there is a concern about the amount of progress.

The CRD Board requests that the Minister of Housing assist with expediting the completion of this important housing project that will help SSI residents to live independently with access to supports such as daily meals, life and skills training, harm reduction and connections to community services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

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