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VIA EMAIL

February 17, 2021

His Worship Lyn Hall and Council
Mayor of the City of Prince George
City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George BC V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor and Council:

I write to you in my capacity as the Minister responsible for Housing for the province, regarding the upcoming council meeting on the Prince George transition and second stage housing rezoning which I understand is scheduled for February 22, 2021.

As you may be aware, there is an upcoming municipal decision regarding proposed transition and second stage housing at **606/614/622 Zelkwas Avenue** in Prince George. As Minister responsible for Housing, I wanted to encourage you to support this project and ensure that you have been provided with information about the project and its rezoning application.

BC Housing has been working with the Phoenix Transition Society and Trinity United Church on a proposal to build affordable housing for women and their children in Prince George. The proposed development would be available to women who are pregnant or recently gave birth, who require a safe place to raise their child/children and develop life and parenting skills.

The housing proposed at 606/614/622 Zelkwas Avenue would be a maximum of two storeys. It would include both transition and second stage housing. Transition houses provide safe, temporary, 24/7 staffed shelter, typically for only 30 days. Second stage housing would provide safe and independent living for 6 – 18 months, and provide a private, secure, affordable home for women and their children who are already living in the community. Programs and services would provide supports such as financial literacy, building self-esteem and focus on skill building to help women and their family's transition to independent living. Currently, there are only 40 women's transition house beds in Prince George. This development would not only increase the number of available homes, but also provide women and their children security in their next steps to independent living.

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The current Harmony House operated by the Phoenix Transition Society, has room for six women and their children; the proposed development would provide new space for Harmony House's current operations and provide new independent homes for women who have completed the Harmony House program.

BC Housing is currently working with Trinity United Church and the Phoenix Transition Society to provide this housing. The proposed development would be located at 606/614/622 Zelkwas Avenue on the vacant land behind the Trinity United Church and requires rezoning. If the rezoning is approved, construction is anticipated to begin spring 2021.

You also may be interested in following the community engagement discussion happening online at: https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/prince-george-zelkwas where members of the public can ask questions. You can learn more about the proposed project by checking out the Prince George Harmony House fact sheet at: https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/17449/widgets/71995/documents/44098

I hope this information is helpful, and I encourage you to contact my office if you have additional questions or if you would like to schedule a more in-depth briefing.

Yours truly,

David Eby, QC
Attorney General and
Minister responsible for Housing

pc: Shayne Ramsay, CEO, BC Housing