



Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Room 310 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Robinson;

As chair of the Health Advocacy Committee of the British Columbia Association of Social Workers, I am writing to commend your government for the housing related commitments outlined in the 2018 budget. As social workers employed in health care, we are acutely aware of the negative health impacts of inadequate housing. We are particularly concerned with the level of homelessness in our communities and are pleased to see your commitment to building 2,500 new supportive homes for this population. We are also encouraged by measures you have announced to preserve existing affordable housing, thereby contributing to the prevention of homelessness. It is also heartening to see targeted funds to address the urgent housing needs of indigenous people.

As you are no doubt aware, the housing crisis in B.C. is dominating the health and social service sectors, affecting treatment plans, recovery, rehabilitation, child and youth care, employment, and more. In our view, it is critical that all levels of government work quickly to translate budgets and strategies into action plans that can show measurable results within months, not years. Therefore, we encourage you to move as quickly as possible to expend these funds in ways that make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable people.

We also encourage your government to adopt a provincial goal of ending homelessness with documented measurable outcomes and milestones, over a multi-year period. In a sector that has been neglected for so long, long-term strategies and funding are required to effect real lasting change. We hope your government remains willing to take on this challenge and see it through.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Fiona Lewis'.

Fiona Lewis
Chair, BCASW Health Advocacy Committee

cc: Hon. John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia