



September 12, 2025

Reference: 187505

Capital Regional District Board of Directors

Email: crdboard@crd.bc.ca

Dear Colleagues and Partners:

We write to you today jointly to indicate our collective support for a regional approach to addressing and resolving homelessness and sheltering in the Capital Region and to encourage you to work collaboratively with your councils and your staff to find avenues and opportunities to expand shelter and supportive housing services offered in your respective community.

Homelessness in Greater Victoria is an urgent priority that affects the lives and wellbeing of every resident, regardless of which municipal boundary they live within. There are people in every community that are experiencing homelessness and are in immediate need of shelter and housing options with supportive services close to home.

In your communities, there are numerous demographics that are at elevated risk of experiencing homelessness, and we all have a part to play in supporting our vulnerable residents. According to the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (www.crd.ca/media/file/2023-point-time-count-report), 1,665 individuals are experiencing homelessness in Greater Victoria, including seniors (25 per cent), women (27 per cent), and Indigenous people (33 per cent); youth identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+ represent 31 per cent of homeless youth, and fewer than one in four individuals have lived in the region for less than five years.

It is unsustainable for the entire region to have services concentrated in a few select areas. By taking a collective approach and ensuring that resources are available where and when people need them, we can support our entire region's wellbeing.

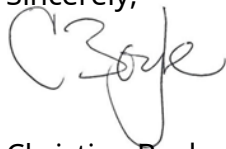
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Through collaborative efforts between the Province, including BC Housing, and the City of Victoria, 162 new shelter and temporary housing spaces with wraparound supports have been opened since 2023, demonstrating the tangible impact of coordinated partnership. We encourage you to be partners in this work and to undertake actions to increase the number of shelter and supportive housing spaces in your community. By working with the Province and BC Housing, you can meaningfully address regional homelessness and provide much-needed supports that benefit everyone in our region.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Board for a collaborative discussion of these issues. To arrange a mutually available time and date in our schedules, please reach out to HMA administrative coordinator Molly Wilkins at Molly.Wilkins@gov.bc.ca.

We look forward to engaging with you more to help realize these possibilities of meaningful change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Boyle'.

Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marianne Alto'.

Marianne Alto
Mayor, City of Victoria