

TB - option 2

From: May, Cheryl OHCS:EX <Cheryl.May@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harder, Derrick AG:EX, Milne, Gala AG:EX, XT:HLTH Ramsay, Shayne
Cc: Fyfe, Richard J AG:EX
Sent: January 27, 2021 7:54:22 PM PST
Received: January 27, 2021 7:54:22 PM PST

This has been provided to TBS and may be useful tomorrow:

s.12; s.13

Thanks,
Cheryl

Cheryl May
Acting Associate Deputy Minister
Housing, Construction Standards, and Multiculturalism
Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing
(250) 812-3345

Fwd: Urgent Shelter and Encampment Response Addendum

From: May, Cheryl OHCS:EX <Cheryl.May@gov.bc.ca>
To: Thomson, John OHCS:EX <John.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 3, 2021 6:09:59 PM PST
Received: February 3, 2021 6:10:00 PM PST
Attachments: a1 AG Urgent Shelter and Encampment Response BN - Addendum.pdf
Well, ^{s.13}

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Campbell, Tracy AG:EX" <Tracy.Campbell@gov.bc.ca>
Date: February 3, 2021 at 6:05:56 PM PST
To: "Fyfe, Richard J AG:EX" <Richard.Fyfe@gov.bc.ca>, "May, Cheryl OHCS:EX" <Cheryl.May@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Engelbrecht, Maya AG:EX" <Maya.Engelbrecht@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Urgent Shelter and Encampment Response Addendum

^{s.12; s.13; s.17}

From: Argast, Peter FIN:EX <Peter.Argast@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Campbell, Tracy AG:EX <Tracy.Campbell@gov.bc.ca>; Helliwell, Jacob AG:EX <Jacob.Helliwell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Urgent Shelter and Encampment Response Addendum

Hello folks –^{s.12}
s.12

Sharing as FYI. Thanks,

Peter Argast
A/Director
Treasury Board Staff
Ministry of Finance
T: 778-974-3608|M: 250-886-0412

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Withheld pursuant to/removal as

s.12

FW: Hotel purchases direction clarification

From: May, Cheryl OHCS:EX <Cheryl.May@gov.bc.ca>
To: XT:HLTH Ramsay, Shayne, Thomson, John OHCS:EX
Sent: February 19, 2021 5:23:02 PM PST
Received: February 19, 2021 5:23:03 PM PST
FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Argast, Peter FIN:EX" <Peter.Argast@gov.bc.ca>
Date: February 19, 2021 at 4:59:33 PM PST
To: "Helliwell, Jacob AG:EX" <Jacob.Helliwell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Campbell, Tracy AG:EX" <Tracy.Campbell@gov.bc.ca>, "Samadi, Talieh FIN:EX" <Talieh.Samadi@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Hotel purchases direction clarification

s.12

Regards,
Peter Argast
A/Director
Treasury Board Staff
Ministry of Finance
T: 778-974-3608 | M: 250-886-0412

**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
OFFICE OF HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for Honourable David Eby, QC
Attorney General

ISSUE:

To provide an overview of the Representative for Children and Youth's latest report as it relates to Provincial housing actions.

SUMMARY:

- On December 15, 2020 the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) will publicly release a report on a review of services for youth transitioning from care into adulthood.
- The report makes one recommendation related to MAG regarding increasing and expanding housing options and wraparound supports for youth as part of a comprehensive plan to end youth homelessness.
- The Ministry and BC Housing are well positioned to respond to this recommendation given the work already underway.

BACKGROUND:

On December 15, 2020, B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) will publicly release a report on a review of services for youth transitioning from care into adulthood. The report is a review of existing research and work, focusing on the approximately 850 young people who age out of government care or a Youth Agreement in the province each year.

The report makes one recommendation specific to MAG related to increasing and expanding housing options and wraparound supports for youth:

- **Recommendation #6 – Provide Additional Dedicated Housing for Youth Aging out of Care:**
 - The Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing should work with BC Housing to develop and implement an aggressive plan to work toward ending youth homelessness in BC, with particular attention to young adults who have transitioned from care.
 - As part of this plan, additional dedicated housing units should be provided for young people aging out of care. Units on a continuum of support - including with mental health and addictions supports where needed - should be available and eligibility requirements reduced.
 - BC Housing is to develop a comprehensive plan by April 1, 2022 and begin full implementation of that plan thereafter.

BC Housing Programs Assisting Youth

- Youth housing is a broad term and can include; youth housing models for 19 and under, youth housing for ages 18 to 25, and/or youth housing for those transitioning out of foster care. MCFD has the primary operational responsibility for vulnerable youth who are aged 19 and under and experiencing homelessness.
- BC Housing funds a range of housing options and supports available to youth, such as subsidized housing, emergency shelters, temporary shelters, homeless outreach and rent supplements.
- Youth who receive a direct housing benefit from BC Housing, either through rent supplement programs, subsidized housing or in congregate housing, are typically between the ages of 19 and 25 with a history of homelessness or being at risk of homelessness. Youth under the age of 19 may be eligible to receive services funded by BC Housing.
- Some of these programs that serve youth include:
 - **Youth Specific Housing:** As of September 30, 2020, BC Housing provides funding to 547 units of housing targeting youth across the province, including affordable rental housing, group homes, supportive housing, emergency shelters, and second stage housing.
 - The **Homeless Prevention Program (HPP):** rent supplements and supports to individuals in the following identified at-risk groups facing homelessness including youth transitioning out of care.
 - The **Rental Assistance Program (RAP):** Rent supplement for low-income working families. Youth aged 16 or older, with dependents, can apply.
 - The **Women's Transition Housing and Supports Program:** assists women and their children who have experienced violence or are at risk of experiencing violence. Women under the age of 19 who live independently are eligible.
 - The **Housing Registry:** subsidized housing listing and application service. Eligible youth under the age of 19 can apply.
 - The **Supportive Housing Registry:** housing listing and application service for housing with supports for people at risk of homelessness. There is no age restriction for application.

DISCUSSION:

Youth homelessness exists at the intersection of several ministry mandates and requires a cross-government response to address. MCFD will co-ordinate a cross-government response to the RCY report and recommendations. MAG and BC Housing are already working with MCFD, SDPR, and non-profit partners to address youth housing and homelessness and will engage with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to ensure addressing the need for youth mental health and substance use supports are a part of this work. This includes looking at the intersectionality of various systems and developing a new process to ensure youth are streamlined into housing. A strategic planning session for partners ministries has been scheduled for January 2021 to improve how we can partner and support the needs of youth.

In addition, BC Housing has analyzed costing for a youth homelessness response that includes rent supplements and housing spaces for youth who are transitioning out of care and youth who are currently on the Housing Registry or Supportive Housing Registration Service. BC Housing is also working on developing a program that will help prepare youth for housing. This program will ensure youth can access housing, have wraparound supports, and remain housed.

MAG has begun work on actions to address youth homelessness and has been supporting A Way Home Kamloops to organize a youth led symposium [Light the Way](#), in Jan 2021 that will include the voices of former youth in care with lived expertise in homelessness. Further, MAG coordinates cross government discussions and responses that address the BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness (BCCEYH) reports that identify, through youth expertise, service improvements or gaps in the system of supports. These reports, which were released earlier this year, will help MAG, BC Housing and partners to develop a comprehensive youth housing strategy.

BC Housing's Building BC Request for Proposals (RFPs) also explicitly invited youth serving agencies to apply for funding. In previous RFPs, youth serving agencies were not listed, and had to inquire to BC Housing to determine eligibility, creating a barrier to access and reducing uptake. BC Housing currently has seven projects totalling almost 80 housing units for youth in various stages of development and construction.

s.13

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

Indigenous peoples are overrepresented in both MCFD's Youth in Care numbers and the homeless population.

The 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in BC found 38 percent of homeless individuals identified as Indigenous, though they account for only 5.9 percent of the BC population. Additionally, a larger proportion of Indigenous respondents were unsheltered compared to non-Indigenous respondents. Indigenous people are believed to be frequently under-counted in homeless counts.

Youth requiring addictions and mental health support, and youth who are female, LGBTQ+, and or are Indigenous, are especially vulnerable in encampments and street sheltering environments. Youth may be physically, mentally or emotionally vulnerable and, as such, require culturally supportive, inclusive and compassionate assistance that includes Elders and community. Indigenous youth should always have input into safe and suitable housing solutions.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

Homelessness is in the mandate of the Ministry of Children and Family Development for the first time. MAG, MCFD, MMHA and SDPR will work together in the coming months on actions to address youth homelessness.

Prepared by:

Michael Duncan
Policy Analyst
Housing Policy Branch
(778) 698-9191

Approved by:

Cheryl May
Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of Housing and Construction
Standards
250-812-3345

Attachment (s):

- Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) A Parent's Duty Embargoed copy

A Parent's Duty:

Government's Obligation to Youth
Transitioning into Adulthood



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

December 2020

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**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
OFFICE OF HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For DECISION of David Eby, QC
Attorney General

ISSUE:
Priorities for the BC Housing Management Commission 2021/22 Mandate Letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **OPTION 1: Approve the 2021-22 Mandate Letter recommended priorities for BC Housing Management Commission as proposed.**

SUMMARY:

- Ministry staff are seeking direction from the Minister on priorities for the BC Housing Management Commission (BC Housing) 2021/22 Mandate Letter.
- Based on work underway and current government priorities, staff are proposing four priorities for BC Housing.

BACKGROUND:

- A Minister approved Mandate Letter Cabinet Submission is due to the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office January 20, 2021.
- In the 2020/21 Mandate Letter, the Minister outlined three priorities for BC Housing:
 - Continue to implement, support and report on BC Housing-related programs delivered through *Budget Update 2017*, *Budget 2018*, *Budget 2019* and *Budget 2020*, including BC Housing programs included in *Homes for B.C.: 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability in British Columbia*.
 - Continue to facilitate partnerships through the new HousingHub division to create and report on market-based affordable housing for middle income and working households.
 - Work collaboratively with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to implement and evaluate a coordinated approach to addressing homelessness.

DISCUSSION:

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- As per the Minister's Mandate Letter, Crown mandate letters will contain standard language from the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office on Reconciliation, however this language is yet to be shared with ministries.
- For several years BC Housing has included a performance measure in their Annual Service Plan under the [Progressive Aboriginal Relations \(PAR\) Certification](#).
- Performance is measured through the PAR, whereby BC Housing's initiatives and partnerships with Indigenous organizations are assessed by an independent third-party organization, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB). The CCAB assesses their commitment to the Indigenous sector in four areas: leadership, employment, business development, and community relationships. Assessment results are certified at a bronze, silver or gold level, depending on performance. BC Housing is the only social housing organization in Canada to be certified under the PAR program.

GBA+ OR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS:

- The proposed priorities directly support gender-equity and diversity by increasing availability of housing for people at-risk or experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, seniors, and Indigenous people and youth, as well as provide more housing for middle-income earners that frees up more affordable options for lower-income people.
- BC Housing applies a Gender Based Analysis Plus lens to all programming. This lens examines community impacts of resource development on diverse groups of people including women, men, girls, boys and gender diverse individuals.

OPTIONS:

- **OPTION 1 (Recommended): Approve the recommended priorities for the BC Housing Management Commission 2021-22 Mandate Letter as proposed.**
- **OPTION 2:** Suggest alternative priorities for the BC Housing Management Commission 2021-22 Mandate Letter.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

N/A

DATE:

Richard J. M. Fyfe, QC
Deputy Attorney General

RECOMMENDED OPTION APPROVED
or **OPTION ____ APPROVED**
(whichever fits best for the options presented)

DATE:

David Eby, QC
Attorney General

Prepared by:
Olga Liberchuk
Project Coordinator
Housing Policy Branch
250 419-8656

Approved by:
Cheryl May
Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of Housing and Construction Standards
250 812-3345