

**From:** s.22  
**To:** [Office of Homelessness Coordination OHCS:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 630993 | RE: DTES..Mahem...  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:28:32 AM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
image002.png

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**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Dear Meghan, Thankyou for your response to my letter to Mr Eby and others. I am aware of many of the services and significant financial investments into the various programs into the DTES primarily with what most of us view in the health care profession and those of us living there as an ongoing social failure. Many of us keep asking about the future of residential care that is clearly needed for many of the sick people on the street, not SROS which do not fit the bill for those with chronic mental illness and addiction. No one seems to want to discuss places such as Riverview ... the closing of which has created much of what we have on the street today! Port Alberni for instance has started a residential treatment farm for women because none of the standard programs of outpatient care and support work! I am currently out of the country but as a s.22 I would welcome an opportunity to talk to you in person. Both the Mayor of Nanaimo , Leonard Krog and Richard Stewart the Mayor of Port Coquitlam have expressed support for residential care and treatment centres that places like Riverview could provide. It seems a humane tragedy that the opportunity to revitalize this centre has been neglected and will be lost as you spend more tax payer money on programs that appear to have a failing grade. Please see the video recently released... Vancouver is Dying....which reflects only 1 of the 4 pillars that Phillip Owen platformed...harm reduction... remains,as all the other 3 have died on the vine! Anyway, enough said... a day on East Hastings says it all.Sincerely, s.22

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 18, 2022, at 5:43 PM, Office of Homelessness Coordination OHCS:EX  
<[OfficeofHomelessnessCoordination@gov.bc.ca](mailto:OfficeofHomelessnessCoordination@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:



October 18, 2022

s.22

s.22  
Dear

Thank you for your July 29, 2022 email to the former Attorney General regarding homelessness in Vancouver. As Executive Director of the Homelessness Policy and Partnerships Branch in the Ministry of Attorney General and Housing, I am able to respond. I apologize for the delay.

Homelessness is a humanitarian crisis which continues to grow in Vancouver, across the region, and the Province, made worse by the impacts of poverty and compounding pandemic, toxic drug and housing crises.

The Provincial approach to homeless encampments is to prioritize the health and safety of vulnerable people. The Province works across ministries and with local community partners to help people experiencing homelessness in encampments stay safe, healthy, and become stably housed with the services and community supports they need. In Vancouver, this includes:

- Outreach, wellness, transition support, shelter, and housing through BC Housing;
- Income assistance supports and navigation through Community Integration Specialists, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction;
- Health supports such as primary care nursing support and outreach, harm reduction, infectious disease prevention, and transition to housing through Vancouver Coastal Health;
- In 2021, the City of Vancouver received more than \$19-million through the Strengthening Community Services federal-provincial fund to support vulnerable people through the impacts of COVID-19.

While the Province is not involved in the fire chief's order or local bylaw enforcement on Hastings Street, the Ministry of Attorney General is working with BC Housing, the City of Vancouver, ministry partners, non-profit housing providers, outreach workers, and other community stakeholders to provide health, housing, and fire prevention supports.

While BC Housing has approximately 700 new supportive homes for people experiencing homelessness that will be opening in Vancouver over the next few years, we recognize that this timeframe is too long to support people who are currently being displaced. To support people in the short-term, BC Housing is actively pursuing new shelter and housing opportunities in Vancouver. This includes expediting renovations on Single Room Occupancy hotel (SRO) units as they become vacant so they can re-open as soon as possible, as well as looking

at new sites to lease or purchase. BC Housing will continue to update the public as new indoor spaces become available.

The Province recognizes the unique pressures and culture of the Downtown Eastside as more people shelter outdoors and together in light of recent building fires, hot weather, and presumed targeted attacks on people experiencing homelessness. We also recognize community members, service providers, and people with lived experience who have stepped up to work together to help neighbours during this time with clean up and fire prevention assistance, food, amenity, and emotional support.

As we focus on supporting people's immediate needs, the Province is also investing in actions to prevent and reduce homelessness over the long term. Through Budget 2022, we are providing \$633 million over three years to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. More information on these investments is available at:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022AG0012-000369>

Included in the Budget 2022 funding is \$164 million over 3 years to expand the Complex Care Housing model to at least 20 more sites, with plans to support up to 500 people. Complex care housing is a new approach to addressing the needs of people who have significant mental health and substance use challenges, often with other complex challenges such as developmental disability or brain injury who aren't adequately served in supportive housing. If you would like more information on Complex Care Housing, you can read the full draft strategic framework online:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/ministries/mental-health-addictions/draft\\_complex\\_care\\_housing\\_framework\\_-\\_feb\\_2022\\_external\\_v2.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/ministries/mental-health-addictions/draft_complex_care_housing_framework_-_feb_2022_external_v2.pdf)

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Meghan Will  
Executive Director

Homelessness Policy and Partnerships Branch  
Ministry of Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing

630993

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Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing	Homelessness Policy and Partnerships Branch Office of Housing and Construction Standards	Mailing Address: PO Box 9844 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9T2	Email: <a href="mailto:OfficeofHomelessnessCoordination@gov.bc.ca">OfficeofHomelessnessCoordination@gov.bc.ca</a>
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-----Original Message-----

From: <sup>s.22</sup>

Sent: July 29, 2022 8:54 PM

To: Eby.MLA, David <[David.Eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:David.Eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca)>

Subject: Re: DTES..Mahem...

Please forward to Murray Rankin.

> On Jul 29, 2022, at 8:52 PM, <sup>s.22</sup>

wrote:

>

> Dear Mr. Eby, I'm not sure if you are still the housing minister, but it really doesn't matter..as the chaos that continues to exist won't likely change no matter who the minister is as none of you have been able to put together any meaningful plan to alleviate the lack of housing, drug addiction, crime, prostitution for the last 50 years!....the problems continue to get worse and worse despite all the tax payer money you are throwing at the problem....hopefully your government will put to use all of the money you are getting from Purdue Pharma to get with it and resurrect the Riverview Lands... 250 acres of unused land, usefull buildings all of which can be used to move this downtown population into the great wide open and put together a coordinated effort to deal with this Downtown Disgrace....put aside your political aspirations and make some tough decisions for the better good of the population and society as a whole. I don't know how you politicians can sleep at night once you have driven down East Hastings, Gore and Main..we are well known in the world as having one of the worst problems...a grade 12 student could come up with an action plan that would put a lid on a large part of the problem...get those ministers from Victoria over here and give them an ear full...spend time on the street...give them a taste of reality...Riverview or whatever the First Nations now call it is begging to reopen and do something useful before it has gone to development...you will never catch up on housing for the homeless as the numbers will continue to expand as more people come to BC. Many of the street people have completely medical and mental health issues that they are only safe and suitable in residential care...for which we do

not have enough beds...I wonder why!!! Bad planning just as we have in health care at the moment...all the fault of politicians with all talk and no action...this mess was exacerbated by the closure of Riverview,without adequate thought, planning and provision of resources!

>

> As usual, despite the Oder by Karen Fry,very little has happened on the street...just like you with Strathcona Park...a lot of talk but delayed action..we have had over 800 hundred fires, multiple propane tanks and civil disobedience ...when will someone have the courage to do what is necessary and clear the streets!

>

> Are you that person? Probably not!

>

>

Sincerely<sup>s.22</sup>