

February 13, 2026

Reference: 190008

His Worship Leonard Krog  
Mayor of the City of Nanaimo  
455 Wallace Street  
Nanaimo BC V9S 5J6  
Email: [leonard.krog@nanaimo.ca](mailto:leonard.krog@nanaimo.ca)

Dear Mayor Krog:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 18, 2025, on behalf of Council for the City of Nanaimo, regarding services and supports for vulnerable individuals in your community.

I appreciate you forwarding the recent resolution by Nanaimo Council in support of designation by the Province of the property at 250 Terminal Avenue, Nanaimo, for dry or sober supportive housing, in follow-up to the Province's response of September 8, 2025, to the City's correspondence of July 30, 2025, and August 5, 2025.

I understand the unique pressures communities face when responding to homelessness as well as the complexity and sensitivities regarding appropriate responses. The Province also recognizes that sheltering outdoors is not a suitable form of long-term shelter and can create significant risks for people's well-being. Through the Belonging in BC Homelessness Plan, the Province takes a Housing First approach to address homelessness by prioritizing shelter as an authentic gateway to permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness.

Supportive housing projects funded by the Province, through BC Housing, are mostly based on the Housing First model. This approach has been demonstrated to be effective for housing people who have been experiencing homelessness who may have barriers to accessing private market housing, while recovery-oriented supportive housing is beneficial for people in recovery who are experiencing housing instability. The Province recognizes the need for a variety of different housing settings for people who have experienced homelessness, depending on their needs and goals.

Page 1 of 3

As the Province works together with local and regional governments, toward creating a complete system of care that connects housing, health, and recovery, developing a consistent understanding of different housing types and their services and goals across the Province is essential. Efforts underway are aimed at creating a provincial approach to recovery-oriented supportive housing.

Recovery-oriented supportive housing is for individuals who are established in their recovery, but provides support if people relapse, rather than eviction. Recovery-oriented supportive housing is housing, not health treatment – these sites are not equipped or intended to provide detox or addictions treatment services. The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs is actively engaged in policy work with BC Housing and the Ministry of Health to evaluate supportive housing impacts, explore system pathways between the addictions treatment system and the housing system, and operational requirements for the delivery of different kinds of supportive housing, including recovery-oriented housing.

Given supportive housing is a provincial housing program, not a health service, careful consideration is required for effective cross ministry partnerships and implementation. The Ministry of Health already funds addictions treatment services and supportive recovery beds, so the housing system needs to coordinate with those resources rather than duplicating them.

Regarding addiction treatment and rehabilitation, programs and services delivered through the Ministry of Health include:

- More than 750 new addiction treatment and recovery beds across British Columbia since 2017
- The Prescribed Alternatives program (PA) for people most at risk from the toxic drug supply; and
- Road to Recovery (RTR), the made-in BC model of comprehensive addictions care that seamlessly moves people through detox, treatment and recovery

To learn more about the Province's approach to building better mental health and addictions care, visit:

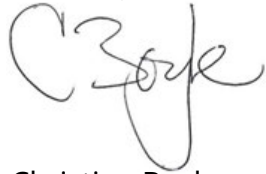
[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/mental-health-and-addictions/building-better-mental-health-and-addictions-care](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/mental-health-and-addictions/building-better-mental-health-and-addictions-care)

Everyone deserves a safe and secure place to stay, and by building more housing and shelter options, we are ensuring the community is stronger for everyone. As I am sure you are aware, BC Housing is continuing discussions with the owner of the former Travellers Lodge, located at 1298 Nelson Street, to determine if they will be able to complete the necessary work required for the building to obtain an occupancy permit from the City of Nanaimo. BC Housing will continue to provide updates to your staff as they become available.

In the meantime, I encourage the City of Nanaimo to share any additional relevant data which may support the request for designation of 250 Terminal Avenue as dry or sober supportive housing.

Thank you again for writing to share concerns and suggestions as we continue to work with the City of Nanaimo and non-profit partners in support of our shared goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Boyle', written in a cursive style.

Christine Boyle  
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs