



December 7, 2021

Shayne Ramsay, Chief Executive Officer
BC Housing
Suite 1701, 4555 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4V8

Dear Mr. Ramsay,

RE: Rental Assistance Program Eligibility Criteria

I am writing on behalf of the Delta Housing Be Mine Society (DHBMS), a BC non-profit society established by a group of parents who advocate for the development of affordable, inclusive and supportive housing for adults with diverse abilities. Over the last decade, DHBMS has worked with the province, City of Delta and various developers to identify opportunities for supportive and affordable rental housing in Delta.

BC Housing's Rental Assistance Program provides critical financial support for low-income families to help with monthly rent payments. This is especially important in areas of Metro Vancouver where housing and rental prices are disproportionately high relative to average income. However, the issue is that rental assistance is currently only available to families or people with dependent children – single people do not qualify for assistance. This is a significant disadvantage for many people who wish to move out of their family home and gain independence in their own apartment or suite.

Delta Council recently approved the City's Housing Action Plan. This plan identifies the critical need for more affordable rental housing options in the community, and particularly, the need for supportive housing for all ages and abilities, including seniors and those with developmental disabilities. It is estimated that more than 400 people with differing abilities need affordable, supportive housing in Delta.

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We urge you to review the eligibility criteria for rental assistance and implement changes that would qualify single people with diverse abilities for financial support. This would be a significant step forward for the many hundreds of people seeking to live independently, and to participate more fully as residents in their local communities. This small change would help to support more diverse and inclusive neighbourhoods to the benefit of all.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George V. Harvie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

George V. Harvie
Mayor

cc: The Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation and
MLA for Delta North
Ian Paton, MLA for Delta South
Delta Council
Sean McGill, City Manager
Mel Cheesman, Director of Corporate Services