



## Mayor Helps Takes Victoria Priorities to Federal Ministers in Ottawa

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA - Mayor Lisa Helps and City Manager Jocelyn Jenkyns will be meeting with a number of Federal Ministers as Parliament opens in Ottawa on Monday to ensure that the City of Victoria's current priorities are top-of-mind for policymakers.

"I believe everyone in Victoria deserves a good job, a good home and a sustainable community. And we'll be looking for any opportunity to advance those priorities with every one of the conversations we'll be having with Federal Ministers and ministerial staff," said Mayor Helps.

Helps and Jenkyns will meet with a number of Federal Ministers on Monday, January 27 and Tuesday, January 28, to advocate for collaborative Federal – Municipal action to build Victoria's economy for now and the future, act on climate change, and to continue the strong relationship on housing affordability and addressing homelessness.

"Housing affordability is a key issue facing our community," said Mayor Helps. "That's why I'll be looking to build on current federal support for the Regional Housing First Program as well as the Reaching Home program to address homelessness. We'll take the region's request to Ottawa for an additional \$10 million required to complete the targeted 2000 units of affordable and rental housing including 400 units that rent at \$375 per month for people currently living on the streets."

Helps will also be discussing [Victoria 3.0: Pivoting to a Higher Value Economy](#), the City's draft economic action plan for 2020 – 2041, which positions Victoria as a future-ready, globally-fluent, and innovative urban hub. The draft plan's "big moves" to create an Innovation District and an Ocean Futures Cluster in Victoria are consistent with the Federal government's plans for economic development and transitioning to a green economy.

Other topics that Mayor Helps will raise during her meetings in Ottawa are: federal policy to address the opioid crisis, federal funding for the region's Bus Rapid Transit System, and the City's interest in the proposed federal Municipal Nominee Program to welcome newcomers to help build our economy.

These Ottawa meetings will ensure that Victoria is well-positioned to partner on the Federal government's commitments to local governments.

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