



## Statement from Mayor Helps on BC's Plan for Topaz Park and Pandora Avenue

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Mayor Lisa Helps issued the following statement today about BC's Plan for vulnerable populations:

"From the beginning of the pandemic and every step of the way, the City has looked for every opportunity to help all residents through this challenging time.

"This includes looking for ways that those without homes could follow Provincial Health orders to social distance and wash hands. That's why we worked with BC Housing, Island Health and the Coalition to End Homelessness to open Topaz Park as a temporary sheltering area until indoor solutions could be procured by the provincial government.

"I thank the Province for their announcement today and for working in partnership with the City to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in our communities. To the entire cabinet committee working on this and to the Premier who brought them together, on behalf of myself and Council and all the residents of Victoria – housed and unhoused – I want to say thanks for using provincial powers under the Emergency Program Act to address this critical situation.

"In response to today's Provincial order, BC Housing is leading a plan to coordinate a move for those living on Pandora Avenue and in Topaz Park into more secure temporary housing, primarily in motel rooms. This important action will provide secure housing, enable appropriate physical distancing measures and improve access to hygiene facilities, healthcare and social supports.

"Working together with the Province, we can create a community where everyone feels safe, where everyone's needs are met, and where everybody can live well and can live well together."

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### For More Information

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