



Statement from Mayor Helps in Response to the Federal Government's Rapid Housing Initiative Announcement

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Mayor Lisa Helps released the following statement in response to the federal government's announcement of funding for affordable housing:

"The pandemic has clearly laid bare the gaps that exist in our country's social safety net. We know from our work with mayors and city staff across the country through the Right to Home Municipal Working Group convened by the Canadian Urban Institute and The Shift, that the cities and towns across this country do not have the funds or the policy levers to fill to fill those gaps.

"Today's funding announcement from the federal government gives us new tools to work together to address homelessness in our cities. Today the federal government announced the Rapid Housing Initiative, \$1 billion in funding for affordable housing. Additionally, a further \$236.7 million has been allocated to *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy* to expand COVID-19 emergency response.

"Everyone has the right to a home. And in a country as wealthy as ours, nobody should be living outside. This new funding is a boost for cities, for the Province, for non-profits. It gives us more tools to use as we work together to reduce homelessness."

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For More Information

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