

VIA EMAIL Ref. 61625

Her Worship Vickey Brown

2673 Dunsmuir Avenue

Cumberland BC V0R 1S0

Mayor of the Village of Cumberland

Email: councillor.brown@cumberland.ca

October 4, 2023

Her Worship Nicole Minions Mayor of the Town of Comox 1809 Beaufort Avenue Comox BC V9M 1R9

Email: <u>mayor.dahl@campbellriver.ca</u>

His Worship Bob Wells Mayor of the City of Courtenay 830 Cliffe Avenue Courtenay BC V9N 2J7

Email: <u>bwells@courtenay.ca</u>

Dear Mayors Dahl, Wells and Brown:

I am writing to provide you with the final results from the Point in Time (PiT) homeless count that was conducted in the Comox Valley on March 14, 2023. The count was led by Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness in collaboration with the Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC). HSABC organized the counts on behalf of BC Housing and the Ministry of Housing. The data from this count and others conducted across the province will be included in a provincial summary planned for release in fall 2023.

The results identify the number of people experiencing homelessness in the Comox Valley, including those identified as sheltered and unsheltered. Data is also organized by age, gender, Indigenous and racial identity, health concerns, reasons for housing loss, and use of social services. Key limitations and methodological considerations are also included. These results will be posted publicly on BC Housing's website on October 6, 2023, at: https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts.

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Email: HOUS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

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Our government is taking bold steps to tackle the housing crisis and deliver the affordable homes British Columbians need. In Budget 2023, we launched the Homes for People action plan, building on the 2018 housing strategy – the largest investment in housing in BC's history. The action plan includes details on the additional \$4 billion over three years announced in Budget 2023, as well as a commitment to invest \$12 billion over the next 10 years, to deliver more homes faster for people.

Alongside Homes for People, government is implementing Belonging in BC, a collaborative plan to prevent and reduce homelessness. The plan recognizes the intersectional factors that lead to homelessness and brings together all levels of government, BC Housing, Indigenous Peoples, the non-profit sector, developers and the construction industry to ensure all British Columbians get the care and support they need and deserve. The plan received a \$633 million investment in Budget 2022, with a further \$1.18 billion in Budget 2023.

If you have any questions about the count, you can contact Angela Fletcher, at comoxvalleyhousing@gmail.com. We hope this data will assist you with the work you are doing to address homelessness in your community.

Sincerely,

Ravi Kahlon

Minister of Housing

Attachment

pc: Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA, Courtenay-Comox

Honourable Josie Osborne, MLA, Mid Island-Pacific Rim