April 24, 2022

Dear Mayor Haynes and District of Saanich Councillors

Re RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING – April 25th

Climate Justice Victoria support the proposal to implement a Rapid Deployment of Affordable Housing policy in Saanich.

Climate Justice Victoria (CJV) is a grassroots group with members and supporters who live, work and study across Greater Victoria including in the District of Saanich. CJV is a member of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT), an umbrella organization of diverse member organizations representing tens of thousands of people across the region.

We see providing affordable housing in transit accessible locations as an essential component of climate justice. Inequality of wealth, income and housing access is one of the major factors that divides our society and prevents effective climate action. Many of our members are young people who are squeezed by high housing costs and stressed by insecure housing situations.

As the municipality with the greatest population and covering the largest area in our region, your leadership is critical to increasing the supply of affordable housing for our community. Too many young people, families and seniors are unable to find affordable housing, as your Housing Needs Report demonstrated.

Please vote to support Councilor Brice's motion "That Council direct staff to examine the Rapid Deployment of Affordable Housing plan in the City of Victoria and bring recommendations that would see Saanich make the necessary amendments to achieve the expedited application timeline for not for profit, government and co-op housing agencies with the same requirements as established in Victoria."

We understand that the requirements approved by Victoria would not have much effect in Saanich without changes to the District's Official Community Plan (OCP) and linked local area plans. Therefore we also request that Mayor and Council direct staff to report back on how the intent of this motion could best be given practical effect.

www.climatejusticevictoria.ca