



April 24, 2022

Dear Mayor Haynes and Council.

Re F.3. RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING Monday April 25

We are writing on behalf of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT), an umbrella organization of diverse member organizations representing tens of thousands of local people and including faith groups, unions, frontline service organizations and more. You can find out more about us at www.GVAT.ca.

For 2022, we have identified building affordable rental housing and tenant protection as the key areas of action for GVAT.

We were active in supporting the city of Victoria in their recent decision to expedite the building of affordable nonprofit and cooperative housing in Victoria.

As the municipality with the greatest population and the largest land mass 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. So, we also request that Mayor and Council direct staff to report back promptly on how the intent of this motion could best be given practical effect.

Sincerely,

Kari Michaels, GVAT Affordable Housing Team Co-lead
Yvonne Hsieh, GVAT Affordable Housing Team Co-lead
Eric Doherty, GVAT board member

www.GVAT.ca