

Minister of
Families, Children and
Social Development



Ministre de
la Famille, des Enfants et
du Développement social

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J9

His Worship Mike Hurley
Mayor of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

AUG 19 2019

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your letter received on June 29, 2019, sharing Burnaby City Council's concerns and your support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) letter about Phase 2 of the Federal Community Housing Initiative (FCHI). It was also a pleasure discussing these issues with you in person during our last meeting. I would like to assure you that our Government listened to all feedback and that the implementation of Phase 2 will facilitate a seamless and timely transition from expiring agreements.

The Federal Community Housing Initiative (FCHI) will put in place new operating agreements as old social housing operating agreements expire. Under these new agreements, community housing providers will continue to receive funding to subsidize rents for tenants in need. In the development of Phase 2, we too are recognizing the risks associated with the transition from legacy operating agreements to the new application-based program. We agree that it is essential that community housing providers receive continuous support without interruption. To this end, Phase 2 will not include any unrealistic requirements that must be met in order to access the program. Instead, the FCHI will include an Action Plan approach that accounts for the varying starting points of different housing providers. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) will work with applicants to ensure providers successfully access the program. The inclusion of Action Plans will aim to help providers improve their operations as is necessary.

On June 26, 2019, I was pleased to announce \$462 million in funding over eight years for Phase 2 of the FCHI, and can confirm that under Phase 2, housing providers will transition seamlessly to a new rental support program, which will start on April 1, 2020.

Our Government believes that the FCHI approach will support the seamless transition and continued operations of federally administered community housing, meeting not only the needs of our vulnerable populations, but also those of the middle class and those working hard to join.

Thank you for your continued support of the National Housing Strategy. I hope that this information is helpful and eases your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P.

Copied to:
City Manager
Dir. Corporate Services
Dir. Planning & Building

Referred to:
Planning and Development Committee
(2019.10.29)

