February 4, 2019

Ref: 243278

Cassie Doyle, Chair  
BC Housing Management Commission  
1701-4555 Kingsway  
Burnaby BC V5H 4V8

Dear Ms. Doyle:

I would like to extend appreciation on behalf of Premier Horgan and the Executive Council for your dedication, and that of your board members, in serving the public interest. Crown agencies play a key role in delivering important services that benefit British Columbians in every region of our province.

Government’s three priorities remain unchanged: make life more affordable, deliver the services people count on, and build a strong and sustainable economy that supports jobs throughout the province. Across government ministries and in strong partnership with Crown agencies, our emphasis is on raising the standard of living for all British Columbians, delivering quality programs and services that are practical and realistic in a B.C. context and in our fiscal environment, and judiciously managing affordability pressures—both for citizens and for our business community.

British Columbia Housing Management Commission works in partnership with non-profit and private sectors, community and Indigenous groups, provincial health authorities, ministries, and other levels of government to develop a range of housing options on the housing continuum.

Our government has also made important commitments to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, taking action against climate change, and working to ensure that our public service and public sector institutions are representative and inclusive of all our diverse society:

- Government is adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), demonstrating our support for true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. All public sector organizations are expected to incorporate the UNDRIP and TRC within their specific mandate and context. Additionally, in May 2018, government released 10 Draft Principles to Guide the Province’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, which serves as a guide for all public sector organizations as we continue to build relationships with Indigenous communities based on respect and recognition of inherent rights.
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- While government has already taken steps towards achieving our legislated carbon reduction targets, much remains to be done. Our new climate strategy will outline significant GHG reduction measures in 2019/20 while supporting our program and service objectives through economic growth powered by clean, renewable energy, supported by technological innovation. Please ensure your organization’s operations align with government’s new climate plan.

- Over the coming fiscal year, I look forward to working with your leadership team to provide effective, citizen-centred governance, through strong public sector boards that represent the diversity of British Columbia. The Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO) at the Ministry of Finance provides leadership for the appointment process to fill positions on the boards of Crown agencies. As your board is renewed over time, I encourage you to work with CABRO to actively seek out women, visible minorities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, and others who may contribute to diversity to add to the CABRO candidate pool to fill open positions. My expectation is that candidates from all regions of our province will be invited to apply to help renew B.C.’s public sector boards, including individuals with a broad range of backgrounds in community, labour and business environments.

As the Minister Responsible for British Columbia Housing Management Commission (BC Housing), I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities and incorporate them in the goals, objectives and performance measures included in your Service Plan.

One of government’s three top priorities is to make life more affordable for British Columbians, including housing affordability. We are committed to increasing affordable housing supply for home buyers and renters, curbing demand, bringing in protections for renters, and tackling fraud in B.C.’s real estate market. British Columbians want housing that is safe, affordable and functional to meet their needs. BC Housing will work with Ministry to achieve these objectives through the following:

- Continue to implement, support and report on BC Housing-related programs delivered through the Budget 2018 Homes for B.C.: 30-Point Plan for Affordable Housing in British Columbia including the Building BC: Supportive, Indigenous, Community, and Women’s Transition Housing funding programs.

- Facilitate partnerships through the new HousingHub division to create market-based and affordable housing for middle income and working households.

- Support the work of the Province and the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction in leading the prevention and response to homelessness, including the implementation of the Homelessness Action Plan.

- Fully implement the recommendations of the 2018 Governance and Oversight review, conducted by the independent firm BDO Canada LLP, and prioritize working with the Ministry on enhanced reporting on housing investments.
Each board member is required to sign the Mandate Letter to acknowledge government’s direction to your organization. The Mandate Letter is to be posted publicly on your organization’s website on Budget Day on February 19, 2019 to coincide with the release of your organization’s service plan.

I look forward to ongoing collaboration with your Board as we work together to deliver improved service and better outcomes for British Columbians.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Cassie Doyle, Chair
BC Housing Management Commission

Barbara Carle-Thiesson, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Penny Gurstein, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Harvey McLeod, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Katherine McParland, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Perry Stanisci, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Aaron Sumexheltza, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Faye L. Wightman, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

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pc: Honourable John Horgan
Premier

Don Wright
Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance

Heather Wood, Associate Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

Tara Faganello, A/Deputy Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Barbara Carle-Thiessen, Board Member
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Faye L. Wightman, Board Member
British Columbia Housing Management Commission

Shayne Ramsay, Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Housing Management Commission