

OCT - 3 2007

Gordon J. Harding  
St. Andrew's - Wesley Church  
Homelessness and Mental Illness Action Group  
100 - 1022 Nelson Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6E 4S7

Dear Mr. Harding and Petitioners:

Thank you for your June 28, 2007 letter along with the accompanying letters from concerned citizens. As Minister Responsible for Housing, I am pleased to respond.

The Province of British Columbia is taking action to address homelessness by working collaboratively with all levels of government. The province has initiated a number of programs aimed at ending homelessness and addressing mental illness and addiction problems. Through the Premier's Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions, nearly 2300 supportive housing units have been funded. The province has also purchased 10 single room occupancy hotels in Vancouver and has committed to build 300 supportive housing units on three sites owned by the City of Vancouver.

We recognize the high cost of homelessness, both socially and financially, and are providing funding and leadership to address the issue.

I appreciate the efforts made by your group in fostering awareness of this complex issue.

Sincerely yours,



Rich Coleman  
Minister

pc: The Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia