

October 27 2020

To Mayor Adams, Campbell River City Council and Strathcona Regional District Board members

Request for Dialogue regarding Urban Indigenous Housing Barriers

BACKGROUND:

The Urban Indigenous Housing and Wellness Coalition is a collaborative committee including representatives of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, Indigenous groups, health agencies and other not-for-profit groups and societies. Our aim is to improve the capacity of urban Indigenous communities in Campbell River to plan and coordinate housing interventions that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of Indigenous people. Access to appropriate and affordable housing is a central determinant of health impacting healthy aging, mental health, healthy eating and social/family connectedness. The challenging events at hand: Covid-19, the apartment fire and ongoing public health epidemic of opioid overdoses highlight further the pressing issue of affordable Indigenous urban housing.

REQUEST:

We would like your support moving forward with our mission. We would like to request a meeting to discuss urban Indigenous housing in Campbell River during the last week of November 2020. If this time is not feasible, we would be available to meet up to the second week of December 2020.

To fulfill the requirement set out by the UBCM *Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation* pilot program, the Urban Indigenous Housing and Wellness Coalition plans to engage with local government by requesting a dialogue in Fall 2020.

We would like to meet to discuss the following:

- An evaluation of the findings from the 2018 Regional Housing Needs Assessment as well as the City of Campbell River's 2021-2025 Housing Needs Report, which have both uncovered racial and cultural discrimination in the Campbell River rental market.
- A digital media presentation illustrating the particular housing and wellness barriers to the urban Indigenous population in Campbell River and their personal reasons for leaving their rural homelands to live in an urban hub.
- The ongoing partnership between the City of Campbell River and the Urban Indigenous Housing and Wellness Coalition on how to better serve our urban Indigenous population in Campbell River.

We look forward to hearing from you, i:mote, gilakas'la and kleco-kleco.

Sincerely,
Madison Stewart on behalf of the

Urban Indigenous Housing and Wellness Coalition