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November 14, 2016

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Coleman,

We are writing to support the Working Group for a Delta Transition House for Women and Children Fleeing Family Violence which has been working for some time to bring a transition house to Delta. We understand that they have spent months negotiating with BC Housing for operational funding only to abruptly learn recently that this funding is unavailable.

Transition houses provide safe spaces for women and children fleeing domestic violence. They are a crucial social support for keeping women and children safe in our communities. In nearby Richmond, Nova House served 79 clients in the period from 2010-2013 but turned away a shocking 281 women and 152 children according to a 2015 report by city staff. We hope that you will agree with us that it is unacceptable that women and children are turned away from transition houses due to lack of space.

The city of Delta has donated a house and the Working Group has secured \$122,000 in HPS funding from the federal government to renovate it into an appropriate space for a transition house. What is needed is operational funding which falls within the mandate of BC Housing. The Working Group has until the end of November to secure operational funding or the HPS grant from the federal government will be lost. We understand that they have requested a meeting with Minister Coleman but have not been available to secure one.

The Working Group for a Delta Women's Transition House includes the Canadian Federation of University Women, North and South Delta; the local Seniors' Planning Table; the Corporation of Delta represented by the Social Planner; Delta Police Victim's Services; Chimo Community Services; and Deltassist Community Services. This working group represents many different facets of the community and is well positioned to bring this project to reality.

This is a critically important project for women and children at risk in Delta. It should not be allowed to languish because BC Housing is unable to recognize the high priority nature of this project.

We are writing to ask that you take immediate action on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Judy Darcy  
Official Opposition  
Spokesperson on Health



David Eby  
Official Opposition  
Spokesperson on Housing

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