

From: [Maggie Yuen](#)
To: premier@gov.bc.ca; [Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
Cc: [Group Trustees](#); [Suzanne Hoffman \(Superintendent\)](#); [David Green](#)
Subject: VSB Letter - Housing
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 6:58:00 PM
Attachments: [20_05May14_L_toPremier_SDPR_CoV_reHousing.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please find attached a letter from Board Chair Janet Fraser to Premier Horgan, Honourable Simpson and Mayor Stewart regarding housing in Vancouver.

Cheers!

Maggie Yuen

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Acknowledges that we live, work and play on the unceded traditional lands of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations.

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Vancouver Board of Education

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May 14, 2020

Honourable John Horgan

Office of the Premier

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Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

E: premier@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Shane Simpson

Ministry of Social Development

and Poverty Reduction

PO Box 9058 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

E: SDPR.minister@gov.bc.ca

Mayor Kennedy Stewart

City of Vancouver

3rd Floor, City Hall

453 West 12th Avenue

Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

E: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca

Dear Premier Horgan, Honourable Simpson and Mayor Stewart,

Approximately 2,000 people live on the streets of Vancouver's downtown eastside, including, until recently, about 200 campers at Oppenheimer Park.

The Vancouver Board of Education passed the following motion on April 27:

That the VSB commend the Provincial Government and the City of Vancouver on their announcement to find acceptable housing for the occupants at Oppenheimer Park, and

That we look forward to the Government and the City of Vancouver urgently working towards finding rooms for the rest of Vancouver's unhoused people so that they will have the same opportunity for self-isolation and maintaining personal hygiene.

We appreciate the Governments' understanding that people having their own washroom, meals, health-care services, and the ability to store personal belongings are important to ensure both personal safety and adequate personal hygiene.

In the press conference announcing this initiative, Honourable Farnsworth said, "We cannot leave our most vulnerable behind" and Mayor Stewart wrote, "All who live in our great city deserve to be treated with dignity and respect."

The Board appreciates you recognize the urgent need to not leave our most vulnerable community members behind and to give the unhoused population dignity and respect as a caring and inclusive city.

Board of Education Trustees:

Janet Fraser – Board Chair

Carmen Cho – Vice-Chair

Fraser Ballantyne Lois Chan-Pedley

Estrellita Gonzalez Oliver Hanson

Barb Parrott Jennifer Reddy Allan Wong

We look forward with hope to a future when housing for everyone who lives in Vancouver is a reality. The Board of Education believes such equity will contribute to increasing student success.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Fraser".

Janet Fraser
Board Chair

cc: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer