

Victoria, B.C.

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Mayor and Council,  
City of Victoria

Dear Mayor Helps and Councilors,

The Victoria Community Association Network would like to thank Mayor Helps for her recent efforts to advocate for a more regional approach to addressing homelessness. According to a BC Housing representative the City of Victoria has 84% of supportive housing within the Capital Regional District.

The unhoused population has become more visible during the pandemic but has been here for many years.

The proposal to use the Oak Bay Lodge for temporary housing is a good first step. It is time that other municipalities provide shelter for the unhoused and build affordable housing. Oak Bay Lodge is now empty after residents were relocated to the newly opened Summit facility on Hillside Ave. It has over 200 beds and is a health facility. Other regional facilities can also be repurposed such as the 72 bed Mt. Tolmie Hospital in Saanich, which will also be vacant when residents are relocated to the newly completed Summit on Hillside.

While the long term plans for these facilities have not been determined, the temporary use to address homelessness and mental health needs should be supported by all in our region.

Regards,  
Don Monsour  
2019-2020 VCAN Chair