



December 7, 2018

To whom it may concern,

It is a pleasure to write a letter in support of Linda Ross' nomination for a Community Builder Award from the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association.

As Mayor of Victoria, I am committed to supporting our citizens' innovative responses to the acute need for housing and support systems, particularly for those who are most vulnerable to the effects of the increasing unaffordability in our region. Housing is a fundamental element of a healthy, inclusive and sustainable community. Linda Ross has proven that she is a leader in this community, working hard to enhance the quality of life and well-being of our citizens.

The City of Victoria was involved in a project led by Linda, the Siem Lelum House. This first phase of this project has created an "urban village" for Indigenous families and young adults, who are among our most marginalized community members. For these families and individuals who are at-risk of homelessness, in addition to providing a home, Siem Lelum House provides culturally appropriate resilience-building supports. Linda continues to fundraise for this project, as she does for so many others.

In addition to managing a number of successful housing projects, Linda Ross shares her extensive knowledge on the intricacies of housing challenges on First Nations land. The housing crises that we are working through today are distinctly human-centred; to truly solve these challenges we need to weave a strong social fabric, to build on the gifts, assets, and talents of our community leaders. In short, we need the leadership and inspiration of people like Linda.

Linda represents the spirit of Victoria – she is entrepreneurial, creative and innovative. It is a pleasure to support her nomination for a Community Builder Award.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor