

[Date]

Minister Josephine Pon
Minister of Seniors & Housing
404 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Pon:

On behalf of Strathcona County Council, I am writing to confirm our support for Heartland Housing Foundation in the matter of adding units under the Lodge Assistance Program.

In January 2021, Heartland Housing Foundation will be opening a newly constructed 144 unit lodge which will be replacing the existing 79 unit Clover Bar Lodge that was built in 1960. The intent of replacement lodge is to deliver a mixed housing model that would cater to moderate income seniors as well as to seniors that require a deep subsidy. This will be achieved offering Rent-Geared to Income (RGI) rental options allowing seniors of differing means to live comfortably within their community while still being able to offer funded support when needed. Under this RGI model, 144 studio units would be eligible to the Lodge Assistance Program (LAP) however the use of the LAP grant will be dependent on seniors meeting the income thresholds as defined by the province. As an Organization, Heartland Housing Foundation anticipates funding efficiencies to be met through the expanded number of units in addition to the RGI rental model and do not anticipate any additional municipal requisitions.

To this end, we fully support Heartland's request to amend their Ministerial Order to include a total of 144 units under the new Clover Bar Lodge and to be eligible for the Lodge Assistance Program as needed by their tenancies. We understand that these units will be operated under the lodge program rules and regulations, and are prepared to take on any requisition increase that may occur, as per the Alberta Housing Act.

We look forward to future collaboration with the Department of Seniors and Housing and with the Government of Alberta providing affordable and safe housing within our communities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rod Frank
Signature line

cc. Heartland Housing Foundation