To: BC Housing, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, Honourable Christine Boyle

To: MLA Tony Luck

Subject: Concerns Regarding proposed 55+ Social Housing Project in Harrison Hot Springs

Dear BC Housing and Municipal Affairs Minister, Honourable Christine Boyle, and Tony Luck

I am a resident and concerned citizen of Harrison Hot Springs. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed 55+ Social Housing Project planned for my community and funded in part with money from the Community Housing Fund through the Ministry of Housing. The proposed project is to be located on the Village’s strategic overflow parking lot which is vital to both the success of the tourism industry and the quality of life for the residents. While I fully support the concept of providing affordable social housing, the current plan is premature and ill-suited for our community’s current infrastructure and safety readiness.

Specifically: Despite being identified as a High-Risk Community by the Ministry of Forest as part of their Harrison Hot Springs Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan the community has no secondary Emergency Evacuation Road to avoid the threat of a wildfire. A high-density social housing facility (60 units of 600 sq ft each) under these conditions’ places both new residents and the existing community at greater risk in the event of a wildfire and the need for a rapid tactical evacuation. This is especially true on a hot summer day with the village flooded with visitors including the adjacent areas of Sasquatch Provincial Park and other Provincial camp sites and wilderness camping up the East Harrison FSR that would need to escape through the village should a catastrophe occur. The total head count for such is estimated at up to 14,000 people.

Safety must come first—infrastructure and planning should be addressed before increasing population density in what is already an area of extreme population and structural density.

Medical Support: Our village lacks adequate medical services and is located approximately 40 km from the nearest hospital. Any residents requiring frequent or emergency medical care may face significant delays and challenges. There are no Doctors, Pharmacies or Diagnostic Testing Labs in the village. All are in Agassiz, a 10-minute drive down the road which quite frankly would be a much better location for the proposed project.

Transportation & Amenities: Harrison does not have comprehensive public transportation options, nor do we have essential services like a full grocery store, which are critical for social housing residents.

Loss of Essential Parking: The proposed location for the 55+ Social Housing Project is currently being strategically utilized as an overflow parking area crucial for community events, tourism, and economic activity. Removing this valuable asset from the unique configuration of Harrison will negatively impact our village’s ability to host events and accommodate visitors. It will also force up to an additional 400 vehicles onto our already crowded residential streets.

I respectfully request that BC Housing and the Province of British Columbia:

1. Consider alternative sites closer to essential services and transportation routes in-order to achieve superior value from the investment of Taxpayers dollars.

2. Work with the community on a proper planning process that includes emergency preparedness, medical access, and infrastructure improvements before any major development is approved.

3. Commit to open and transparent consultation with Harrison Hot Springs residents regarding future social housing initiatives.

I ask that my concerns be taken seriously and that consideration of this 55+ Social Housing Project be paused until the proper supports are in place to ensure the health and well-being of all residents.

Sincerely,

Name (Print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address / Email / Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_