



July 28, 2015

Mayor and Council  
City of Vancouver  
453 W 12th Ave  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

RE: Proposed sale of Stamps Place Housing Complex

I am writing on behalf of the Stamps Place Tenants Council and the hundreds of residents we represent to ask your help in developing a sustainable, accountable solution to the proposal by BC Housing to sell the Stamps Place Housing Complex to a privately-managed nonprofit organization.

Stamps Place was listed for sale in October 2014. Despite repeated requests to BC Housing that tenants be involved in any decisions about the future for our housing, our requests have been ignored. Our members are strongly opposed to having our housing and this property turned over to a private organization which will have no accountability back to the residents or to the community at large, and which will ultimately have full rights to sell or develop the property for the private market. BC Housing's assurances notwithstanding, there is nothing in the current proposal which guarantees long-term preservation of this land for affordable seniors and family housing.

The City of Vancouver has been in the forefront of advocating for and securing social housing for local residents. We ask that you come to our aid to preserve this housing and this land before it is lost. We believe the best alternative would be for the City to come to an agreement with BC Housing to purchase Stamps Place and secure the property through a land trust. This proposal would be consistent with the plans to develop further family housing on the Ray-Cam site, which is contiguous to our property. We would be pleased to work with the City to develop an innovative model of securing affordable housing – one that maintains public land ownership and involves tenant participation, along with community partners, in site management.

We would like to meet with you and/or designated staff to discuss this proposal in detail. We believe – as you have so clearly stated – that securing affordable housing is necessary to securing Vancouver's future. We look forward to partnering with you to contribute to achieving that vision.

Best regards,

Guy Wakeman, President  
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c.c. Penny Ballem, City Manager