

Good day Honourable Mayor and Council,

My name is Charlene Kettlewell. I am a mother of four who attend school in the neighbourhood of the proposed building.

After 18-months of listening and learning about homelessness and housing options, I have become a staunch advocate for inclusive models and I am in Opposition to this rezoning application.

**The applicants asserted that only 3% of homeless have children, thereby justifying the use of single rooms only.** However, in SFU's Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction's local study fully 25% of the 500 homeless individuals who participated had children under the age of 19. Many of those suffering homelessness have to place their children in the care of others and as such, the children are invisible to point in time surveys.

By offering only studio suites, the 7th and Arbutus project, as well as the King Edward and Knight project, and the other 3 projects BC Housing is currently proposing, all will exclude the 25% of the homeless population that have children.

For the immediate 424 units in the BC Housing Supportive model pipeline, individuals with children will have to make the heartbreaking decision to place their children in government care, or with family members if they wish to live in any of these permanent projects.

This acts a **systemic barrier to housing for the 25% of the homeless who have minor children.**

It was contained within the referral report, and was repeated on June 28th by the applicants that women would not be the target demographic for this site and this aim presents a direct restriction to access to housing.

**This proposition does not support the City's Equity Strategy** aimed at making Vancouver a place where all women have full access to the resources provided. In 2018, of over 2000 homeless counted 1330 or **67% were living in temporary domestic violence shelters**, those were predominantly women.

According to the Downtown East Side Womens Shelter, since the beginning of the pandemic there has been a significant increase for **women needing safe refuge** as gender-based violence has increased substantially and people have lost access to support services.

**No consideration was given to an alternative composition**, one that could serve women and women-led families, an unfulfilled need. On June 28 the applicants said that no data could be provided to Council to assure them that there were those homeless in Kitsilano that would be given priority at the site.

Given that a BC Housing project for 40 women-led families just 3 blocks from the proposed site could be threatened with demo-viction pursuant to the Broadway Plan with no promise of replacement, as well as an immediate opportunity right next door to provide housing to the vulnerable women and women-led families exiting the Stage 2 recovery home, I would think this would have been top of mind and a fixed need that planners would prioritize.

The number of units planned for this project is well in excess of the 40-50 units contemplated in the provincial governments 2017 "rapid response to homelessness" program framework.

**If density is the target, building 50 units inclusive of families** could reach or even exceed 129 total individuals housed. North Vancouver has approved this model for the Lloyd and 16th site, which is near schools in a residential neighbourhood, and is built with a welcoming wood-frame structure that includes on-site playground. Residents of Kitsilano have

raised the North Vancouver model with both BC Housing and the City of Vancouver as an excellent model for 7th and Arbutus.

In summary I believe this model is helpless to those most in need in Kitsilano within the immediate vicinity of the site at risk of homelessness,

It is unmanageable in size

Its exclusive tenancing aims is a **lasting systemic barrier** to entry for many

When the population of homeless women + women-led families are faced with eviction, homelessness, violence and worse, this is not the time to discriminate by exclusion

I urge you to not give up on your opportunity to influence the success of the site.

If you have **any doubt** about its ability to succeed exactly as proposed then urge you to send the proposal back at this juncture for revision so it can be a success.

Im going to leave you with this quote from Janice Abbott, CEO of Atira Womens Resource Society from an news article in January 2020.

“When women leave abusive relationships, they often stay in transition housing with their children, Abbott explained. But that housing has an expiry date, usually around two years. And finding permanent housing that's big enough for families, and affordable for low-income women, is next to impossible in Vancouver.”