University of Victoria

Office of Campus Planning & Sustainability
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June 17, 2020

Mayor and Council
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 2W7

Dear Mayor Haynes and Members of Council,

RE: Zoning Bylaw, 2003, Amendment Bylaw, 2020, No 9608, Housing Occupancy Limit of Unrelated Residents

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this matter. The University of Victoria (UVic) is unique in British Columbia in that 75% of our students come from outside our immediate region. As a destination university, students choose UVic for the quality and breadth of our programs and travel from across the province, Canada and the world to attend. The vast majority of our incoming class of 5,000 students per year are therefore new to Victoria and require housing.

To address the acute need for student rental housing in the community, UVic's number one capital priority is to provide additional student housing on campus. The university is investing over $200 M in 783 (621 net new) student housing units on campus. With completion of both buildings expected in 2022 and 2023 respectively, the university expects that these new housing units will assist in relieving rental housing pressure in neighbouring communities.

The university supports the development of new housing policies, bylaws and initiatives to improve access to housing for UVic students, faculty and staff across the housing spectrum, including co-living, non-market housing, affordable rental housing, market rental housing, and affordable or entry-level ownership.

Moving forward, we welcome the opportunity for Saanich staff to engage with the university's administration and the broader university community in the development of Saanich's upcoming Housing Strategy. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at 250-472-5433 or ocpsdir@uvic.ca.

Sincerely,

Mike Wilson, MCIP, RPP
Director, Office of Campus Planning & Sustainability

Cc: Jennifer Vornbrock, Executive Director, Government and Community Relations