BC Housing

1701-4555 Kingsway

Burnaby, BC

V5H 4V8

Date:

**RE: BC Housing Community Housing Fund Application**

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in support of the Bowen Island Resilient Community Housing (BIRCH), a non-profit housing society based on Bowen Island, BC. BIRCH has partnered with Bowen Island Municipality (BIM) to commit a 0.15 hectare vacant parcel of community-owned land to build

27 units of affordable rental housing in Snug Cove, Bowen Island.

BIRCH’s vision for the project is a connected, resilient community with diverse housing units to suit a variety of needs for Bowen Island community members, with a special focus on the Island’s most vulnerable; people who have mobility challenges, low-income families, individuals, and seniors, and moderate-income families.

As Bowen Island Municipality’s recent Housing Needs Assessment has confirmed, our community is in dire need of diverse and affordable rental units across all income levels. Today approximately 90% of our housing stock are single family homes, with the average house price nearing $1 million. Additionally, the Bowen Island Community Foundation conducts vital conversations, and in its most recent report, it identified affordable housing as a priority for the community.

This project aims to provide urgently-needed rental housing stock, diverse in size and rent levels. Providing secure tenure in rental housing is critical to maintaining a diverse community. Additionally, BIRCH's vision for the project includes high energy efficiency, sustainability, and design principles promoting social connection.

Thank you for your consideration.