To: Dr. Erika Paterson
From: Luke Jang
Date: June 16, 2020
Subject: Proposal for Determining the Feasibility of Converting the Vacant Spaces Into Homeless Shelter

**Introduction**Due to the rising cost of living across Canada, homelessness is becoming a common problem across the country. For example, in Vancouver, Downtown Eastside on East Hastings is the well-known slum. The severity of homelessness in that particular area was already bad since long time ago, however, it is becoming even worse.

**Audience**head of the Homeless Prevention Program at BC Housing **Statement of Problem**As the population of the homeless people on the street increases, security of the public can also be compromised due to potential criminal activities involving the homeless. Furthermore, aside from the public safety’s point of view, the homeless people are also exposed to various dangers including plaque and the extreme weathers.

**Proposed Solution**One possible solution to the degradation of public safety and the well-being of the homeless people is to house the homeless people into vacant spaces of various feasible places such as vacant hospital facilities, abandoned buildings and such. Surprisingly enough, a lot of the spaces in hospital facilities are often kept vacant for a lengthy period. The reason for the vacancy cannot be discussed here due to confidentiality issues, however, it is certain that there are numerous vacancies and spaces being wasted in hospitals. Also, these vacant spaces are not only empty and are also fully functioning at the same time; lights and the heating are left on 24/7 and they never stop functioning year-round. Other than hospitals, lots of places can be used as temporary homeless shelters. Due to these reasons, a lot of places including hospitals can certainly be a temporary solution to address the issues arising from homelessness until other government programs seek for more permanent solutions.

**Scope**
To assess the feasibility of developing shelters for homeless people utilizing spaces being inefficiently vacant. I plan to pursue the following 7 areas of inquiry:

1. What is the approximate number of homeless people that are needing shelters ?
2. What is the approximate number of homeless people that actually want to stay in shelters ?
3. What are the potential issues for housing homeless people in shelters ?
4. Are there any current sheltering projects being planned by the government ?
5. What other supplementary resources other than a physical space would be needed to house the homeless ?
6. What are the main concerns regarding homeless people to healthcare workers currently working in hospitals and how are they affected ?
7. If homeless people could be housed in the local hospitals, how is this going to affect the patients in the hospitals ?

**Methods**My primary data sourceswill include consultation with psychiatric nurses and social workers at where I work, a hospital. Aside from my workplace, I will also consult and talk to some of the police officers at my volunteer place (community policing centre). Consulting will be by either in person or by email.

Secondary sources will include internet searches on the web for statistics on my scope of research.

**My Qualifications**
I had volunteered closely with the homeless in the Downtown Eastside in the past. Also, I am currently working in a hospital as a security where I deal with the homeless on a daily basis. Therefore, I am familiar with the homeless people’s lifestyle as well as their behavior. My association with people in certain profession such as psychiatric nurses and police officers gives me the opportunity for an in-depth feasibility study.
 **Conclusion**
It is clear that there is a solution needed to reduce the amount of homelessness in this city. By addressing the 5 areas of inquiry mentioned above, I would be able to determine the feasibility of providing more temporary shelters utilizing abandoned or vacant places throughout the city. With your approval, I wil begin research at once.