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### **BC Housing-City partnership bringing affordable housing for women, children to Campbell River**

The City and the Province, through BC Housing, are working together to create 40 new and much-needed rental housing units for women and their children in Campbell River.

The proposed apartments will be located on property owned by BC Housing close to Rose Harbour, The City plans to donate its property at 1180 Fir Street to add to BC Housing's lot.

*"The need for more affordable and diverse housing options is one of Council's key strategic priorities and was among the top community values in the City's recent citizen satisfaction survey. Our strong relationship with BC Housing is helping to deliver housing that is in high demand,"* said Mayor Andy Adams. *"The City is pleased that land originally purchased to support vulnerable members of our population is able to contribute to providing housing for women and children in need."*

Campbell River and North Island Transition Society (Transition Society) will manage the new building. The society has a long, successful history of operating Rose Harbor and Ann Elmore House, providing emergency shelter and transitional housing for women and children fleeing violence.

*"I am thrilled with the partnerships that have come together in Campbell River creating safe spaces, compassionate care and hope for women and children leaving violence,"* said Mitzi Dean, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity. *"This housing is part of our commitment to work with partners throughout the province in delivering 1,500 homes for survivors of violence. This investment will give choices and provide stable foundations to more vulnerable women on which they can rebuild their lives."*

Rose Harbour has always had at least 40 households on the waitlist since opening in 2013, and there are currently 60 households on the list.

*"Campbell River's low vacancy rates, high rental rates and lack of appropriate and affordable housing means women and children have nowhere to move on to,"* said Darlene Hawes, board chair of the Transition Society. *"Women and children are staying in emergency and transitional housing for much longer than is appropriate. The impact is that other people waiting to get into housing are staying in bad situations or are at risk of homelessness. The project is expected to make a tremendous difference to providing much needed affordable rental housing for women and children."*

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's January 2020 Rental Market Report indicates that, as of October 2019, Campbell River is reported to have the lowest vacancy rate on Vancouver Island and the second lowest in British Columbia.

*"Campbell River is experiencing significant population growth, and even with strong development of rental projects, many people are still struggling to find appropriate housing. That's what makes projects like these so important,"* said Mayor Adams.

Once plans are prepared, the City, BC Housing and the Transition Society will hold neighbourhood and community presentations to answer any questions and receive feedback.

The project is part of the Province's 10-year, \$734-million investment to build 1,500 new safe homes for women and children leaving violence.

On Monday, Council will consider a housing agreement bylaw to ensure the long-term affordability of the new apartment units. The project will then proceed to the next stage of planning and detailed design. A development permit application submission is expected following the completion of the land transfer process.

The mixed-use development supports direction in the Official Community Plan to bring more people living within walking distance of downtown, services, amenities and having ready access to transit.

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