

April 29, 2021

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 55 new and much-needed affordable rental housing units for women and their children in Campbell River. The mixed-use building includes larger units for women and children, accessible units for senior women and a ground floor commercial space.

The proposed apartments will be located on properties owned by BC Housing close to Rose Harbour, including a lot that the City donated to the project at 1180 Fir Street. BC Housing is providing approximately \$19.7 million in capital costs for the project through the Women's Transition Housing Fund, as well as an annual operating subsidy of approximately \$550,000. The City is also making significant financial contributions by covering the cost of all City-related development fees and charges.

"Council is very pleased to continue the partnership with the North Island Transition Society that created the vision for Rose Harbour in 2012 and now provides more affordable and diverse housing options in Campbell River. Our strong relationship with BC Housing and community partners is helping to deliver safe, affordable rental housing that's in high demand," said Mayor Andy Adams.

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. This building offers tenants more independence along with the benefit of Transition Society support and programming.

"The Transition Society has been supporting women and children in Campbell River for 34 years. We are very pleased to be able to expand the housing and support services we can offer from emergency shelter, and transitional housing to include more permanent affordable housing options. There is a serious need for this type of housing, and we are very grateful for the support from the City of Campbell River and BC Housing," said Valery Putz, Executive Director of the Transition Society.

Rose Harbour has had a significant waitlist since opening in 2013, with 60 households on the list in 2020. Part of the challenge has always been a low supply of affordable housing for families ready to leave Rose Harbour. Eagle Harbour will help fill that housing gap. The mixed-use development also 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.

"It's encouraging to see our housing partners come together to make sure there is more safe, appropriate, supportive and affordable housing for women and children in our community," said Michele Babchuk, MLA for North Island. *"Our government remains committed to building homes like these across the province so that women and their children who have fled violence are given a realistic chance to stabilize, heal and move towards self-sufficiency with strength and determination."*

During the April 26 meeting, Council approved a development permit for the project. Existing buildings on the property will be demolished in advance of new construction.

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COVID-19

Please note: We have new procedures in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We are gradually – carefully – resuming in-person services and limited public access to City facilities. For the most recent information on City services, please see our website (campbellriver.ca). Reach us with general inquiries by email (info@campbellriver.ca) or telephone **250-286-5700**.