



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 6, 2019**

Date: May 31, 2019
From: Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday
Subject: Renewal of the Regional Housing First Program

Background:

In 2016, the Capital Regional District (CRD) established the Regional Housing First Program, a partnership between the regional, provincial and federal governments to substantially reduce homelessness and increase housing affordability through the creation of 400 units of new housing priced at shelter rates and more than 1500 additional units of rental housing priced at levels accessible to people at different income levels.

Construction is now underway on a number of RHFP-funded projects around the region and the first low-income homes have opened at Millstream Ridge in Langford.

The question now is whether the program will conclude upon completion of the initial 2000 units of decommodified housing, or whether the funding partners will choose to renew funding for the program in order to continue the important work of expanding housing affordability for low-income people in British Columbia's Capital Region.

In light of ongoing challenges relating to housing affordability and poverty for a substantial segment of the regional population, it is recommended that Victoria City Council places itself on record as favouring renewal of the Regional Housing First Program upon completion of the initial 2000 homes, through an additional regional contribution of \$30-million subject to matching funds from federal and provincial partners.

This would allow for the ongoing mobilization of intergovernmental relationships, resources and processes to expand decommodified housing options in the region.

Recommendations:

That Council:

1. Agrees in principle to renewal of the Regional Housing First Program upon completion of the initial 2000 homes, through an additional regional contribution of \$30-million subject to matching contributions from federal and provincial partners.
2. Requests that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Chair of the Capital Regional District and to the federal and provincial Ministers responsible for housing, indicating the City of Victoria's support for renewal of the Regional Housing First Program upon completion of the initial 2000 homes, through an additional regional contribution of \$30-million subject to matching contributions from federal and provincial partners.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Isitt



Councillor Loveday