



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 23, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** Sep 16, 2021
From: Councillor Loveday and Councillor Andrew
Subject: Developing an Accessible and Adaptable Housing Policy

BACKGROUND:

The BC Building Code is a provincial regulation governing how new construction, building alterations, repairs and demolitions are done. A building must meet the requirements of the BC Building Code that is in force when it is constructed, including accessibility requirements. It is possible for municipalities to adopt policy to encourage and mandate accessibility in new developments that goes beyond the BC Building Code.

In the City of Victoria's 2019-2022 strategic plan, council committed to encouraging "barrier-free housing and universal design in new developments" and to "Identify and remove barriers to make Victoria accessible" as ongoing action items. In 2020, the City of Victoria adopted its first Accessibility Framework which aims to ensure accessibility is considered and prioritized in all aspects of City planning and operations, from capital investments and municipal programs, to front-line services for residents and businesses.

The City of Victoria currently doesn't have specific policy to encourage and mandate accessibility standards beyond what is required by the BC Building Code. It is recommended that council approve the following motion to act on its strategic priorities and make new developments more accessible.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council include the following action in the Victoria Housing Strategy:

Develop specific policy to mandate and encourage accessibility, adaptability, and universal design in new developments.
2. That Council direct to staff report back as part of the next Victoria Housing Strategy update with the resource and workplan implications of doing this work and with a timeline for drafting this policy.
3. That council direct staff to encourage applicants to consider accessibility and universal design as part of their design process, as a voluntary practice until the new policy is in place.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loveday'.

Councillor Loveday

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Andrew'.

Stephen Andrew