



## **Council Member Motion For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 15, 2023**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** June 12, 2023  
**From:** Councillor Krista Loughton and Councillor Dave Thompson  
**Subject:** Endorsement of the Vancouver Island Housing Leadership Network's Calls to Action

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### **BACKGROUND**

*Near-term Measures to Encourage More Housing and Affordability* was the subject of a Council Member Motion (CMM) that passed at Committee of the Whole on January 5, 2023 ([Attachment A](#)) and was ratified at Council on January 19, 2023 ([Attachment B](#)).

The goal of the CMM was to accelerate housing availability and affordability. Staff were directed to report to Council on the implications of several recommended items. Since that time, most of the items in question have been rolled into other initiatives such as the Official Community Plan (OCP) update. One outstanding point that requires attention is to endorse the Vancouver Island Housing Leadership Network's calls to action ([Attachment C](#)), many of which are already underway by the City of Victoria.

The six calls to action include:

1. Establish a 'Housing Centre' - establish a separate Housing Centre with elevated status within each municipality to facilitate and accelerate the approval of affordable and supportive housing proposals and promote an affordable housing lens through all departments' decisions and policies.
2. Unlock land - unlock access to municipal land, improving the financial viability of developing new housing.
3. Implement financial exemptions - commit to exemptions for non-profit developers for property taxes, development cost charges (DCCs), and municipal improvement obligations.
4. Accelerate processes - adopt and expand on the example of the City of Victoria in approving an accelerated process for new affordable housing projects consistent with the Official Community Plan.
5. Promote collaboration - promote municipal collaboration with our organizations and health authorities to ensure the right level of support is available to individuals in crisis when they need it.

6. Access collective expertise - consider the Vancouver Island Housing Leadership Network as a resource as councillors endeavour to understand the complex challenges and barriers exacerbating the current situation to effectively advocate at the provincial and federal levels for the change our communities desperately need.

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the Vancouver Island Housing Leadership Network's calls to action while recognizing that municipalities may take different approaches to achieve these shared goals and the intent of these actions;

AND THAT Mayor Alto writes to the other municipalities in the region to encourage them to also endorse and implement the calls.

Respectfully submitted,



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Coun. Krista Loughton



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Coun. Dave Thompson

### List of Attachments

- Attachment A: Committee of the Whole Council Member Motion\_Near-term Measures to Encourage More Housing and Affordability dated January 5, 2023
- Attachment B: Council to Follow COTW Minutes dated January 19, 2023
- Attachment C: Greater Victoria Housing Society News Release dated January 6, 2023