



**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of November 19, 2015**

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**To:** Governance and Priorities Committee      **Date:** November 19, 2015  
**From:** Councillors Madoff and Thornton-Joe  
**Subject:** Support for Co-Operative Housing

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**Background:**

At the Council meeting of October 29, 2015, a presentation was made by Patty Shaw, representing the Co-op Housing Federation of British Columbia. As part of the presentation Ms. Shaw requested that Council consider bringing forward a motion in support of co-op housing. This request is particularly timely as a federal housing agreement, which for 35 years, has provided rent subsidies, is due to expire with no replacement plan in place.

The loss of the rent subsidy program will present a significant challenge to the on-going viability of co-op housing across Canada. In the CRD, 34 housing co-ops provide 1,172 homes. In Victoria, 13 housing co-ops provide 470 homes.

**Relevance to Strategic Plan**

Council support for co-op housing aligns with Council's focus on affordable housing and Strategic Plan objectives such as (6) Making Victoria More Affordable and (7) Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness.

**Motion:**

WHEREAS a significant challenge to the supply of affordable housing exists in the expiry of the federal co-op housing agreements that provide rent support for thousands of low-income households across B.C. and Canada, including some 1,172 in the Capital Region;

AND whereas maintaining support for co-op housing is a key component of providing affordable housing for our residents, as well as our municipal economic vibrancy and sustainability;

THEREFORE be it resolved that Council write to the Provincial and Federal governments, including the Premier, the Prime Minister, local MPs and MLAs, Ministers responsible for Housing, Health and Finance, requesting that they work jointly and separately on developing mechanisms to maintain a rent supplement program for the more than 20,000 low-income members in housing co-ops and that we call upon the Federal Government to commit now to reinvest the savings from expiring federal housing agreements to share the costs of funding this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signatures of Pamela Madoff and Charla Thornton-Joe.

Councillor Madoff

Councillor Thornton-Joe