



**Council Member Motion  
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 16, 2017**

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**Date:** November 9, 2017

**From:** Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday

**Subject:** Advocacy for Federal Leadership for Housing Affordability

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**Background:**

This report provides a summary of Council resolutions, actions identified by the Housing Affordability Task Force and additional policies relating to Federal government leadership for housing affordability. It is prepared to provide a unified and comprehensive request to the Government of Canada, to inform Federal action for housing affordability in partnership with the Provincial government, First Nations governments, local governments and housing providers.

**Recommendation:**

That Council requests that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal Minister of Finance, and the federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, copying Members of Parliament from British Columbia and member local governments of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, indicating that the City of Victoria is willing and ready to be an active partner for housing affordability and requesting Federal government leadership in the following areas in partnership with Provincial governments, First Nations governments, local governments and housing providers:

- (1) Incorporate the right to housing into Canadian law, advancing legislation, programs and resources that guarantee the right to housing as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, international agreements to which Canada is a signatory.
- (2) Restore stable, multi-year transfer payments to Provincial governments and First Nations governments to expand and refurbish the supply of non-market housing.
- (3) Introduce effective fiscal and taxation tools to encourage the use of residential property to provide housing, and discourage speculation, "flipping," commodity investment and other market distortions that contribute toward a sharp escalation in the price of housing, including the option of a phased-in Capital Gains Tax exemption for primary residences that increases over time to encourage residential occupancy.
- (4) Restore taxation and construction incentives to encourage the development of new purpose-built market rental and purpose-built non-market rental housing.
- (5) Restore the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) to support the refurbishment and retention of affordable rental housing.
- (6) Restore the Co-operative Housing Program, to support the expansion of new co-operative housing supply and support the refurbishment of existing housing co-ops.

- (7) Commit \$30-million toward the Regional Housing First Strategy in British Columbia's Capital Region, and fund similar partnerships in other regions to eliminate homelessness by providing housing with supports.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Ben Isitt



Councillor Jeremy Loveday