



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

Date: November 9, 2017

From: Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday

Subject: Advocacy for Provincial Leadership for Housing Affordability

Background:

This report provides a summary of Council resolutions relating to Provincial government leadership for housing affordability. It is prepared to provide a unified and comprehensive request to the Government of British Columbia, to inform Provincial action for housing affordability in partnership with the Federal government, First Nations governments, local governments and housing providers.

Recommendation:

That Council requests that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the provincial Minister of Finance, copying the Premier of British Columbia, Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region, and member local governments of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, indicating that the City of Victoria is willing and ready to be an active partner for housing affordability and requesting Provincial government leadership in the following areas in partnership with the Federal government, First Nations governments, local governments and housing providers:

- (1) Increase the supply of non-market housing.
- (2) Create an inventory of public and private land suitable for development for affordable 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 adjustments to the Property Transfer Tax to encourage residential occupancy and discourage speculation.
- (4) Guarantee a dedicated and fixed portion of revenues from Property Transfer and Land Value Capture taxes for local Affordable Housing and Transit infrastructure.
- (5) Extend Vacancy Taxation Authority to local governments, providing communities with the discretion to decide whether to introduce an additional tax to discourage vacant and derelict buildings, and encourage the occupancy, maintenance, and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.

- (6) Restore the authority of local governments to introduce a Land Value Tax, to incentivize improvements to property for housing and other purposes, and create a disincentive to holding vacant property for speculative purposes.
- (7) Consider granting local governments the authority to take title to vacant and derelict buildings, to encourage the occupancy, maintenance, and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.
- (8) Amend the Residential Tenancy Act and provide additional resources to the Residential Tenancy Branch to strengthen protections for renters facing rent increases and “renovictions” and “demovictions.”

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Ben Isitt



Councillor Jeremy Loveday