NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2019MAH0187-002374
Dec. 9, 2019

New affordable homes for seniors coming to Salt Spring Island

SALT SPRING ISLAND – Seniors with low to middle incomes will soon benefit from 22 new affordable rental homes, as construction begins on the expansion of Croftonbrook.

"Seniors deserve to have safe and affordable housing, close to their friends and loved ones,” said Sheila Malcolmson, MLA for Nanaimo, on behalf of Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Thanks to the partners who have worked to give seniors a good place to call home, our elders can stay in their community.”

Located at 132 Corbett Rd., Phase 2 of the development will provide 10 studio units and 12 one-bedroom units for seniors.

“This is such a wonderful announcement, and I raise my hands to everyone who helped make it happen,” said Adam Olsen, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. “With more affordable, accessible homes that allow seniors to stay on Salt Spring, our community is made richer and more vibrant. The safety and security of a comfortable home is a human right and I am grateful we have begun to chip away at the housing crisis.”

Islanders Working Against Violence Society will own and operate the two-storey wood frame building. The society is receiving $2.2 million from the Province’s Building BC: Community Housing Fund, $4.5 million in construction financing and annual operating funding for the project. The society provided the land, valued at $777,000, and equity of approximately $495,000 for the new building.

“This is a day to celebrate as there will be more affordable housing for seniors, especially for those at risk of homelessness and struggling in this terrible housing crisis,” said Kisae Petersen, executive director, Islanders Working Against Violence Society. “We couldn’t have done this without the co-operation of BC Housing, the CRD, Islands Trust and North Salt Spring Waterworks, and the incredible support from Salt Spring Island Foundation and private donors.”

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is providing $144,000 through the Regional Housing Trust Fund and $100,000 through the Community Works Fund (CWF). The CWF investment (federal gas tax funding) will lead to conservation benefits, such as a 30% reduction in water demand for the project.

“The CRD is proud to work with our partners and provide funding through the Regional Housing Trust Fund for this expansion,” said Gary Holman, electoral area director, Salt Spring Island. “We are excited to see the next phase of this project move forward for residents on Salt Spring.”
Each floor of the building will include a laundry room and common room. Residents will have access to a larger common building on the site that currently serves the existing 20 seniors' units.

This project is part of the more than 22,000 new homes that are completed or underway throughout B.C. because of provincial investments.

Delivering affordable housing is a shared priority between government and the BC Green Party caucus, and is part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

Quick Facts:

- This housing development is funded through the Building BC: Community Housing Fund, a $1.9-billion investment over 10 years, to build more than 14,000 mixed-income rental homes throughout the province.
- The projected rent mix for this phase will be:
  - four units for seniors with low incomes: $375;
  - 11 rent-gared-to-income units (seniors with low to moderate incomes): approximately $500 (studios) to approximately $640 (one-bedroom); and
  - seven middle-income units: approximately $975.
- In addition to these 22 homes for seniors, the Province is working in partnership to build 24 affordable townhomes for low- to moderate-income families on Salt Spring Island at 176 Bishops Walk Rd.

Learn More:

A map showing the location of all announced provincially funded housing projects in B.C. is available online: [https://www.bchousing.org/homes-for-BC](https://www.bchousing.org/homes-for-BC)

To learn about the steps the Province is taking to tackle the housing crisis and deliver affordable homes for British Columbians, visit: [https://workingforyou.gov.bc.ca/](https://workingforyou.gov.bc.ca/)

A backgrounder follows.
Province building new homes to meet full spectrum of housing needs

The B.C. government is working in partnership to build 114,000 affordable homes that cover the full spectrum of housing needs for British Columbians by 2028.

Budget 2018 included a $7-billion investment in the homes people need. As a result of that investment, more than 22,000 new homes are completed, under construction or in the approvals process for a range of people who are struggling to find a place to live, from people who are experiencing homelessness and seniors on fixed incomes, to middle-income families, students and individuals. As of Aug. 31, 2019, this includes:

Housing for middle-income earners (households with annual incomes between $50,000 and $150,000) – approximately 4,120 homes:

- Building BC: Community Housing Fund: approximately 1,500 rental homes for people with middle incomes
- HousingHub: approximately 2,620 homes

Housing for people with low to moderate incomes (including some where rents are based on 30% of household income and others with set rents, which are designed to be affordable; to moderate-income households, in most cases earning less than $70,000 annually) – approximately 9,320 homes:

- Building BC: Community Housing Fund: approximately 3,700 rental homes for people with low to moderate incomes
- Affordable Rental Housing Program: nearly 1,600 homes for low to moderate incomes
- Deepening Affordability Fund: more than 2,150 homes for low to moderate incomes
- Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund: approximately 1,170 homes for Indigenous peoples, on- and off-reserve
- Regional Housing First Program: approximately 700 homes for people with low to moderate incomes

Housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness (shelter-rate housing) – approximately 3,060 homes:

- Rapid Response to Homelessness: 2,064 homes with 24/7 support
- Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund: approximately 800 homes with 24/7 support
- Regional Housing First Program: approximately 200 homes for those ready to live independently with supports

Housing for women and children leaving violence – approximately 360 homes:
• Building BC: Women’s Transition Housing Fund: approximately 360 spaces of transition, second-stage and affordable rental housing for women and children leaving violence

Housing for students – approximately 5,600 homes:

• BC Student Housing Loan Program: approximately 2,700 on-campus student housing units are underway or in the approvals process
• Nearly 2,900 student housing units are also underway or in development through partnerships with post-secondary institutions

Total: approximately 22,460 homes

Contacts:

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Media Relations
Laura Mathews
778 698-1608

BC Housing
604 439-8571

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