



Secondary Suites Grant Program to Launch March 30

Date: Friday, February 20, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Victoria City Council approved a new grant program for secondary suites last night, making it even easier for homeowners in the City of Victoria to install a suite. Full program information and applications will be available March 30.

“There is tremendous opportunity for property owners and trades people to benefit from the new grant program,” noted Mayor Dean Fortin. “Staff’s hard work to fast-track the development of this program is indicative of the focus and commitment we all share in increasing the supply of safe, affordable rental stock in the City.”

A secondary suite is a legal suite, located within a single family home and cannot be strata-titled. Secondary suites increase safe, affordable housing supply, provide a ‘mortgage-helper’ in uncertain economic times, and benefit local trades as construction of new suites will keep trades people working.

Victoria’s secondary suite program offers homeowners a grant equal to 25% of construction costs of new secondary suites, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Homeowners considering applying for this grant should note that building permits for secondary suites issued prior to the start of this program will not be eligible for the grant funding. Homeowners must wait until the program is launched to apply for building permits, and must be owner-occupiers, in order to be eligible for the funding. Those bringing existing suites up to code will not be eligible for the grant, which is for new suite construction only.

In addition to the grant program, Council will consider relaxing zoning and regulations to install a suite. Those changes are expected to receive public hearing on March 26, 2009. Homeowners who are considering installing a secondary suite are encouraged to use the time before the launch of the grant program to do some initial research and find out if their home and property are compatible with a suite.

An opportunity to learn more about the grant program, how to install a suite, and how to foster a healthy landlord-tenant relationship will be hosted at City Hall on April 16. More information on this session will be available in the coming weeks.

The grant program and proposed zoning changes are only applicable to homeowners within the City of Victoria, not the Greater Victoria region.

For more information about grant program, including steps in the application process, please visit www.victoria.ca and click on ‘Secondary Suites’ in the Quick Links.

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For More Information:

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