



City Offers 10 Year Tax Holiday to Encourage Affordable Rental Housing

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria City Council approved a permissive tax exemption to encourage construction of new affordable rental housing at yesterday's Committee of the Whole meeting.

New affordable multi-unit rental housing owned and operated by a non-profit organization could be eligible for a tax exemption of up to 10 years, similar to the City's very successful Heritage Tax Exemption Program. It will be used to build affordable rental housing, which is defined as housing with rent equal to 30% or less of a household's gross annual income, currently targeted at the \$30,000 to \$60,000 income range.

Mayor Dean Fortin noted, "Council is excited to take this step to help encourage the creation of affordable housing in the City. Every safe, affordable rental unit we can have constructed under this program is another home for a family that needs it."

The tax exemption will only apply to construction of multi-family rental accommodation of three or more units owned and operated by a non-profit organization, and is a one-time incentive. In order to qualify for the tax exemption, Building Permits must be issued by March 31, 2010 and final Occupancy Permit by June 30, 2011.

Addressing homelessness and affordable housing are two of Victoria City Council's immediate priorities.

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