



City Made Unprecedented Investment in Housing in 2009

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC —Mayor Fortin provided the annual Year in Review address to City Council last night, which included a progress report on Council's commitment to creating affordable housing.

"Housing and homelessness are arguably the most complex and challenging issues we face, but we have been diligent, innovative and holistic in our approach," said Mayor Fortin.

In 2009, \$2 million dollars from the Housing Trust Fund helped secure more than \$80 million in housing projects. This investment translates into the creation of 284 housing units and 83 shelter spaces, providing shelter for at least 367 people.

- Wing Building (City Contribution \$510,000; project cost \$9.4 million)
 - Over 50 units of affordable housing are being created on Wilson Street in Victoria West
- Dockside Green (City Contribution \$460,000; project cost \$9.9 million)
 - 46 units of affordable housing
- Ellice Street shelter / transitional housing (City Contribution \$172,743; project cost \$16 million)
 - A "purpose-built" 83 bed emergency shelter and 24 units of transitional housing are now under construction on Ellice Street in Victoria
- Humboldt Valley (City Contribution \$21,963; project cost \$11.2 million)
 - 44 people will move into supportive housing units on Humboldt Street in the next year
- The Hudson (City Contribution \$800,000; project cost \$32 million)
 - 80 units of affordable (below market) rentals
- 834 Johnson Street (City Contribution \$120,000; project cost \$2.3 million)
 - 12 units of affordable rental for adults with disabilities operated by Beacon Services Society
- Secondary Suites
 - The City made changes to the secondary suite policy this year and introduced a grant incentive program of up to \$5,000 for home owners looking to create suites in their homes. Thirty secondary suites were created in 2009, with 15 homeowners taking advantage of the grant program

“When I look back at these projects I am reminded that when it comes to solving the housing crisis we face the solution lies in the collective impact of all these projects. Ten units here, 25 units there -it adds up and it is how we will achieve our targets,” said Fortin.

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