



Council Approves Close to 600 New Homes, Many More Move Forward to Next Steps

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Last night Victoria Council gave the green light to 581 new homes to be built in the city, with many more moving forward for public comment.

“I’m thrilled to see all this homebuilding and this level of investment happening in Victoria,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “Everyone deserves a good home. And, by building homes close to work, schools and amenities, we’re creating a sustainable, compact and healthy community.”

The Dockside Green community in Victoria West will move forward with three new buildings featuring 369 residences, including 145 much-needed rentals. Two new buildings approved at Yates, Cook and Johnson will bring 211 new homes to the Fernwood neighbourhood. The project, by Chard Developments, includes 104 homes at below market rates and, in a first for the city, is being designed with a purpose-built childcare space for 75 children.

In addition to the projects approved at last night’s council meeting, Council moved three more projects forward for public input. Two of these proposals are for affordable housing. The Capital Regional Housing Corporation is proposing to redevelop the Michigan Square community in James Bay, expanding the total number of homes to 97 from 53. The second is on Chown Place that will see 58 new affordable rental homes for seniors and families coming to the Burnside-Gorge neighbourhood. In Fairfield, a new 31-unit purpose-built rental building will also move forward to a public hearing.

The City of Victoria is making significant progress to address the need for more housing in Victoria across the housing spectrum. For example, some new affordable rental units start at \$375 per month. There are also rent-geared-to income units as well as below market condos to encourage home ownership.

Through Budget 2020, the City is increasing its investment by \$650,000 in its Housing Reserve Fund for a total of \$900,000 in 2020 and committing \$650,000 annually in the future to provide grants for the development and retention of affordable rental and home ownership projects.

To further stimulate and diversify the development of new housing, City staff will be bringing forward a family housing policy and incentives to encourage more rental housing. These are two key actions in the City’s 44-point Housing Strategy that aims to increase housing choice and affordability for all Victoria residents, regardless of family size or income level.

— 30 —

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