

Renters' Advisory Committee (RAC)

Work Plan 2022



Purpose:

To provide advice and recommendations to Victoria City Council on policy initiatives affecting rental housing and tenants.

Work Plan Themes:

1. Advising on Victoria Housing Strategy implementation
2. Building tenant awareness
3. Recommending advocacy to multiple levels of governments
4. Addressing emergent issues

RAC Referrals Process:

The following process establishes efficient and effective methods for communicating between the RAC, City staff and Council.

Referrals to the Committee		Method of Communication to Council
From Council and City Staff	<p>City staff will refer relevant actions from the Strategic Plan and Housing Strategy to the RAC for input.</p> <p>RAC input may include support, endorsement and suggestions for refinement or prioritization of issues.</p>	<p>Consultation summary of RAC input will be included in staff reports to Council.</p>
From RAC Members (Emergent Issues)	<p>Emergent issues are not included in the Work Plan however, they may be added to a meeting agenda in the form of a motion for discussion at a meeting. Consideration of existing work plan priorities will be given as well as RAC and City staff resources when discussing emergent issues.</p>	<p>Council may consider RAC motions that propose City action and resource allotment in response to emergent issues. Motions involving emergent issues will be brought to Council through either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Council liaisons</i> may bring RAC motions to Council Meetings in report form, if issues are urgent or do not require additional resources. This method requires less time and will not include staff recommendations.• <i>City staff</i> may bring RAC motions to Council in either quarterly reports, or in report form to the Committee of the Whole meeting, if the matters are not time sensitive and/or require additional resources. This method will require more time and will include staff recommendations.

Work Plan 2022:

The plan below identifies key actions to be considered by the RAC within the current Committee term of October 2021 to October 2023. While the RAC has a 2-year term, this work plan is focused on year 1 (2022) priorities, based on Council direction. A subsequent work plan will be established for 2023 when Council sets its priorities for that calendar year.

Timeline	Action Items	Expected Outcomes
Theme 1: Advising on Victoria Housing Strategy Implementation		
January 2022	1. Tenant Assistance Policy Update a. Right of First Refusal change (10% to 20% below market rents)	RAC consultation and input
Ongoing	2. Regional Rent Bank Pilot Program	Monitoring and information sharing
Ongoing	3. Provincial Residential Tenancy Act improvements	Monitoring and information sharing
2020 – 2022	4. Village and Corridor Planning – Phase I a. Hillside-Quadra, North Park and Fernwood neighbourhoods b. Includes new land use policies for increased housing capacity including rental housing	RAC consultation and input
2022 Initiation	5. Co-op, co-housing and land trust support a. Explore how to facilitate, incentivize and support collaborative housing forms and evaluate the City's role in the development of these housing forms.	Information Sharing
2022 Initiation	6. Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw monitoring	Monitoring and information sharing
Resume in 2022	7. Rental Incentives project a. Consider new incentives to encourage development of rental housing and look for further opportunities	RAC consultation and input

Timeline	Action Items	Expected Outcomes
	to expedite and simplify development processes for affordable rental housing.	
2022 Initiation	8. Family Housing Policy a. Consider mandating two and three-bedroom units in new development	RAC consultation and input
2022 Initiation	9. Barrier-Free Housing and Universal Design	RAC consultation and input
2022 Initiation	10. Housing policy review with equity, diversity and inclusion lens	RAC consultation and input
Late 2022 Initiation	11. Housing Policy Working Group a. Review progress on Housing Strategy action items, and flag new items for consideration in the next phase of the Victoria Housing Strategy.	RAC consultation and input
Theme 2: Building Tenant Awareness		
2022 Initiation	12. Tenant Engagement Project a. Tenant capacity building and communications on the following: i. City's Tenant Assistance Planner ii. City's Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw iii. Provincial Residential Tenancy Act updates and Residential Tenancy Branch processes iv. Regional tenant resources	RAC consultation and input
Theme 3: Advocacy to Multiple Levels of Government		
2022	13. Advocacy via the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) and Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM):	Recommendations for Council advocacy

Timeline	Action Items	Expected Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Vacancy control b. Legal aid for tenancy issues c. Provincial acquisition strategy for non-profit housing 	
Theme 4: Addressing Emergent Issues		
2022	To be determined by RAC	Additions to the work plan may be recommended to Council for resource consideration by Council liaisons or City staff