

**MOTION WITH NOTICE TO THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2019**

SUBJECT: **Renewal of the Regional Housing First Program**

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Capital Regional District (CRD) established the Regional Housing First Program, a partnership between the regional, provincial and federal governments to substantially reduce homelessness and increase housing affordability through the creation of 400 units of new housing priced at shelter rates and more than 1500 additional units of rental housing priced at levels accessible to people at different income levels. Construction is now underway on a number of RHFP-funded projects around the region and the first low-income homes have opened at Millstream Ridge in Langford.

The question now is whether the program will conclude upon completion of the initial 2000 units of decommodified housing, or whether the funding partners will choose to renew funding for the program in order to continue the important work of expanding housing affordability for low-income people in British Columbia's Capital Region.

In light of ongoing challenges relating to housing affordability and poverty for a substantial segment of the regional population, it is recommended that the Capital Regional District Board places itself on record as favouring renewal of the Regional Housing First Program upon completion of the initial 2000 homes, subject to matching funds from federal and provincial partners. This would allow for the ongoing mobilization of intergovernmental relationships, resources and processes to expand decommodified housing options in the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Agrees in principle to renewal of the Regional Housing First Program upon completion of the initial 2000 homes.
2. Directs staff to report back to the Hospitals and Housing Committee and the Governance and Finance Committee on options for funding a potential fresh \$30-million regional contribution upon completion of the initial 2000 homes, subject to matching contributions from federal and provincial partners.
3. Requests that the Board Chair and staff engage federal and provincial partners to determine their willingness to renew the program through matching contributions, and report back to the Board with the results of this engagement.

Submitted by:	Director Ben Isitt, Victoria
Concurrence:	Director Jeremy Loveday, Victoria