



Making a difference...together

Executive Office
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC Canada V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3125
F: 250.360.3130
www.crd.bc.ca

October 30, 2020

File: 0400-40/CMHC

Dear CRD Local Area Administrators:

RE: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RAPID HOUSING PROGRAM – LAND CONTRIBUTION REQUEST

On October 23, 2020, the Government of Canada Social Development Minister, contacted Capital Regional District (CRD) Board Chair Colin Plant to inform him that the CRD was allocated \$13,056,502 in funding under its Rapid Housing Initiative to support the creation of new permanent housing to address the needs of vulnerable populations in the region. I also received the attached correspondence from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) confirming this allocation (see attached letter and FAQ) which I was able to brief the Board on at their Special Meeting on October 28, 2020.

You may have seen some media coverage on this announcement or already be aware that the Board has asked staff to urgently communicate and engage with the CRD municipalities and electoral areas to ask if you can identify properties or land for sale, or potentially contribute land, that could be used in a regional effort to develop more affordable and supportive housing projects. We are also seeking opportunities to leverage this funding through partnerships.

The CRD has been asked to develop and submit an Investment Plan that outlines the capital projects that will be built in the region. In summary, the funding can be used for the following purposes:

- acquisition of land and the construction of affordable multi-residential modular housing units (as defined in Schedule A);
- acquisition of land and buildings for the purpose of conversion of non-residential into affordable multi-residential housing units; and
- acquisition of land and buildings in disrepair or abandoned for the rehabilitation into affordable multi-residential housing units.

As BC Housing is an active partner, but also may be working with you individually on other projects, so we are engaging with them directly to explore aligning or leveraging this with current initiatives and other provincial programs. The CEO of BC Housing has directed their staff to work with the CRD to expedite the identification and development of projects in our region. We are asking that your municipality review its inventory of municipally held lands and identify those properties where you think new affordable or supportive housing projects might be able to proceed, preferably with the appropriate zoning in place or where rezoning could be expedited. We would also ask you to consider opportunities where a land exchange with another organization or institution might render a property where such a project may proceed.

The CRD is eager to identify opportunities as the Government of Canada has set a short timeline on the submission process to finalize access to the funding in question. The CRD is also eager to complete its agreement with CMHC and proceed on the development and implementation of projects that achieve the objectives of the Rapid Housing Initiative. We ask that, if possible, you complete your review and **provide your response no later than Monday, November 9, 2020.**

Thank you for your consideration of this important opportunity. Stephen Henderson, Real Estate Manager will be in touch with your staff directly to follow up and should you have any questions, please contact him at shenderson@crd.bc.ca or 250-360-3136.

Sincerely,



Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

cc: CRD Chair and Board of Directors
Mayors and Councilors