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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

Date: 9/21/2020 10:25:12 PM

Subject: New Federal Rapid Housing Initiative Announced

Attachments: image002.png
ATT00001.htm
ST-RapidHousing.docx
ATT00002.htm

Dear Mayor and Council,

Below is a summary the federal government's new Rapid Housing Initiative, announced this morning. The IGR team will be engaging with FCM, and their federal counterparts, in order to get more detail on what it means exactly for BC and Vancouver.

The City has already benefited from \$1.6 million in Reaching Home money to support our emergency COVID response initiatives in the DTES.

New Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) Announced

This morning the federal government announced \$1 billion for cities, provinces and other housing providers to enable the rapid creation of 3,000 new affordable housing units across Canada. The funding is to cover the construction of modular housing, as well as the acquisition of land, and the conversion of existing buildings to affordable housing.

Key program details:

- Federal government plan to spend \$1 billion over the next six months so cities and other housing providers can keep people from becoming homeless.
- Delivered by CMHC, funding will cover the construction of modular housing, as well as the acquisition of land, and the conversion of existing buildings to affordable housing.
- Program is expected to enable the rapid creation of 3,000 new affordable housing units across Canada.
- Funding will be available to municipalities, provinces, territories, Indigenous governing bodies and agencies and non-profit organizations.
- Funds to be committed by the end of March 2021.
- The federal government will provide \$236.7 million through Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, which is in addition to the \$157.5 million announced in April 2020, to help extend and expand the emergency response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

CMHC news release: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/media-newsroom/news-releases/2020/canada-rapidly-create-affordable-housing-support-homeless>

Best,
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

La version française se trouve à la suite de la version anglaise.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2020

FCM welcomes new action to house vulnerable amid pandemic

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) President Bill Karsten issued the following statement following today's federal announcement on a new Rapid Housing Initiative.

"Today's federal commitment to support Canadians experiencing homelessness with affordable and supportive housing brings renewed hope to some of our most vulnerable—and lays the groundwork for an even closer partnership between municipalities and the federal government on affordable housing."

"Municipal leaders are on the front lines of a Canadian housing crisis that has deepened through the pandemic. Most urgently, they have moved quickly to protect those with no home of their own, including people living with mental illness and substance use challenges. Many have leased motels or retooled municipal buildings to provide more COVID-safe shelter space, but there is a critical need for more sustainable housing solutions."

"Today's commitments help us get more people properly housed quickly. They also create jobs in the trades through required renovations, building conversions and retrofits. In short, this action blends urgent pandemic response with action toward Canada's post-COVID recovery—and FCM will be advocating with our federal partners for more of this approach on the road ahead."

"We recognize today as a response to extensive and ongoing federal-municipal engagement through FCM. We have advocated strengthening the community-based Reaching Home homelessness initiative, as well as leveraging fast-deploy modular affordable housing. Recently, [FCM released recommendations](#) to help community housing providers permanently repurpose discount-priced private buildings as non-profit housing. That includes converting buildings like motels and rooming housing into supportive housing for vulnerable Canadians."

"We cannot overstate the urgency of moving forward on today's commitments, and rapidly scaling up from these important first steps. From Toronto to Edmonton to Calgary to Victoria, we have people living in tent encampments trying to maintain physical distance. With winter, flu season, and a possible second wave of COVID-19 all bearing down, going slow is simply not an option. To protect our most vulnerable and build a better, more inclusive Canada coming out of this, we need to get moving now—and FCM and our members are ready to work with our partners to drive results on the ground."

The [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) (FCM) unites more than 2,000 local governments representing more than 90 percent of Canadians.

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For more information: FCM Media Relations, (613) 907-6395, media@fcm.ca