



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Vancouver Advances Groundbreaking Seniors Housing Strategy

VANCOUVER, BC - Yesterday, City Council took a historic step forward in addressing the housing needs of its seniors by unanimously passing the City's first Seniors Housing Strategy. This comprehensive initiative aims to meet the diverse needs of older adults in Vancouver, ensuring they have access to attainable, supportive, and inclusive housing options.

"Our council is committed to ensuring Vancouverites of all ages have a place to call home in our city," said Mayor Ken Sim. "We're very proud to be taking the lead with the City's first Seniors Housing strategy. Older adults are one of our fastest-growing demographics, and it's important to ensure we include their needs in our city planning."

With more than 30% of Vancouver's population aged 55 and older, the need for tailored housing solutions has never been more critical. The Seniors Housing Strategy, which aligns with the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities Framework, provides five key directions to address these key challenges:

1. **Seniors Housing Rezoning Policy:** Establishing a supportive regulatory environment to develop much needed senior housing in key areas.
2. **Resident Relocation Policy:** Ensuring relocation support and securing new accommodation within the city before redeveloping private and public long-term care and assisted living buildings.
3. **Seniors Housing Design Guidelines:** Promoting high-quality architecture, dignified care, and access to activities for older adults.
4. **Expediting Subsidized Projects:** Fast-tracking long-term care and assisted living projects across the city.
5. **Campus of Care:** Exploring development of a Campus of Care on City-owned land and considering seniors-only shelters as an interim step to permanent housing.

Council also approved an amendment brought forward by Councillor Mike Klassen that recognizes the vital role of privately operated seniors housing projects. The amendment highlights that these projects could provide substantial public benefits and should

therefore be eligible for increased heights and densities, just like nonprofit and government initiatives.

“As someone deeply involved with Vancouver’s senior community, I have heard firsthand from seniors struggling to find housing in our city,” said Councillor Mike Klassen. “To tackle this challenge, we need an all-hands-on-deck approach. By working with our private, non-profit, and government partners, we are building a community where all Vancouverites can thrive for generations to come.”

Looking ahead, City Staff will bring the Older Persons Strategic Action Plan and 2025 Senior Housing Exemption Report to Council this fall. These steps represent a key milestone towards creating a more inclusive, accessible, and supportive future for Vancouver’s seniors.

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