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For CSRD Directors
information.
Thank you
L Shykora

May 7, 2019

Ref: 246050

Dear Local Governments:

As you are aware, housing availability and affordability are some of the biggest issues facing British Columbians today. That is why I am writing to let you know about exciting partnership opportunities that can be used to increase the supply of affordable housing in your community.

With the 30-point housing plan, the Government of British Columbia is making the largest investment in housing affordability in B.C.'s history—approximately \$7 billion over 10 years—through the **Building BC** funds. In the first year of this plan, we have already made significant investments in communities across British Columbia:

- **Building BC: Community Housing Fund (CHF)** will provide close to \$1.9 billion over 10 years to develop 14,350 units of mixed income, affordable rental housing for independent families and seniors. The new homes are designed to address the need for affordable housing across a range of income levels, in response to a housing crisis that has made housing unaffordable for even middle-class families. *Currently, more than 4,900 of these new homes have been approved in 42 communities. (See map: <https://www.bchousing.org/partner-services/Building-BC/community-housing-fund>)*
- **Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund (IHF)** is a \$550 million investment over the next 10 years to build and operate 1,750 new social housing units for Indigenous families and seniors. *In Fall 2018, we announced 1,100 new affordable homes for indigenous peoples in 26 communities across B.C. (See news release for project list: <https://www.bchousing.org/news?newsId=1479152910395>)*
- **Building BC: Women's Transition Housing Fund (WTF)** is investing \$734 million over 10 years for 1,500 units of transition and second-stage housing to help women and children get out of violent and abusive situations and rebuild their lives. *More than 280 of these new spaces have been approved for 12 communities.*

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- **Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund (SHF)**, an investment of \$1.2 billion over 10 years, will deliver 2,500 new homes with 24/7 support services for people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. This fund builds on the **Rapid Response to Homelessness initiative** (now fully subscribed) in which 2,000 homes with supports are currently being built in 22 communities across the province, with 1,285 units already opened.
- **Building BC: Capital Renewal Fund (CRF)** is a \$1.1 billion investment over the next 10 years to make existing B.C. social housing stock more livable, energy-efficient, and safer. This investment will make dramatic improvements to the existing social housing stock in the province and benefit thousands of British Columbians.

Many of these housing projects are underway, but I wanted to make sure you knew about upcoming opportunities to apply for future funding. BC Housing is interested in partnering with municipalities, non-profit housing providers, and community groups to create more innovative and sustainable housing solutions through the following:

- **Future RFP** - BC Housing will be issuing a second formal Request for Proposals for the *Community Housing Fund* and the *Indigenous Housing Fund* in 2020. We encourage groups interested in submitting proposals to start their planning early, to ensure their projects are ready when applications open. Interested organizations can visit bchousing.org/partner-services/funding-opportunities-for-housing-providers to learn more about these funding streams and their requirements.
- **Ongoing Opportunities** - BC Housing welcomes discussions with partners interested in developing new housing through the *Supportive Housing Fund* and/or the *Women's Transition Housing Fund*. Visit bchousing.org/partner-services/Building-BC to learn more or contact your local Director of Regional Development (contact list below).
- **Major Repairs for Existing Social Housing** - Funding is available for non-profit housing providers or housing co-operatives to support capital projects that maintain or benefit an existing social housing building's condition or improve the building's seismic or fire safety, as well as for projects focused on energy performance. Visit bchousing.org/partner-services/asset-management-redevelopment/capital-planning-repairs to learn more about eligibility criteria and how to apply, or speak with the local Regional Non-Profit Portfolio Manager.
- **The HousingHub** is a new division within BC Housing, and was established to seek innovative partnerships with local housing organizations, community land trusts, Indigenous groups, faith-based groups, charities, the development community, financial institutions and other industries to create affordable rental housing and homeownership options for middle-income British Columbians. As a centre for housing expertise and collaboration, affordable housing will be developed through the HousingHub either through new construction or through the redevelopment of existing sites. Partners bring suitable land, equity and/or the catalyst for development. The HousingHub can provide:
 - Expertise to provide advice on assisting the group in the planning and development process
 - Access to pre-development funding
 - Low-cost financing
 - Project coordination advice
 - A place for organizations to collaborate

Learn more: www.bchousing.org/partner-services/housinghub

There are many ways that municipalities can help to partner with BC Housing, such as providing city-owned land or waving Development Costs Charges, as a few examples. If you have an identified housing need in your community, we are hoping that you will help share some of these opportunities with interested community groups in your area. If you are interested in providing housing but are unsure of how to connect with a non-profit, BC Housing or the BC Non-Profit Housing Association can help you identify housing non-profits that operate in your region.

While BC Housing will be promoting these opportunities, we are hoping that you will also reach out to encourage key stakeholders in your community to apply. We have included a *Building BC* factsheet to help you promote these opportunities.

Please have interested key stakeholders in your community contact their local Director of Regional Development for more information:

Region	Director of Regional Development	Email
Interior Region	Danna Locke	dlocke@bchousing.org
Northern Region	Amy Wong	awong@bchousing.org
Vancouver Coastal & Fraser Region	Naomi Brunemeyer	nbrunemeyer@bchousing.org
	James Forsyth	jforsyth@bchousing.org
Vancouver Island	Malcolm McNaughton	mmcnaughton@bchousing.org
HousingHub	Raymond Kwong	rkwong@bchousing.org

Thank you in advance for your support in helping to bring more affordable housing to your community.

Sincerely,



Selina Robinson
Minister

Enclosure

Partnering with BC Housing to Build Affordable Housing

BC Housing welcomes the opportunity to work with individuals and organizations to create affordable housing solutions. We work in partnership with non-profit sectors and private sectors, community and Indigenous groups, provincial health authorities, ministries and other levels of government. As a partner, we build and facilitate community and business partnerships to find innovative solutions to housing.

Building BC Funds



Affordable Rental & Homeownership Program



▶▶▶ **How to apply**

Visit us online to learn more about how to partner with BC Housing.

▶▶▶ **Funding Opportunities for Housing partners**

Website: bchousing.org/partner-services/funding-opportunities-for-housing-providers

Provincial Director, HousingHub
Raymond Kwong: rkwong@bchousing.org

Vancouver Coastal & Fraser Regional Directors
Naomi Brunemeyer: nbrunemeyer@bchousing.org
James Forsyth: jforsyth@bchousing.org

Interior Regional Director
Danna Locke: dlocke@bchousing.org

Northern Regional Directors
Amy Wong: awong@bchousing.org

Vancouver Island Regional Director
Malcolm McNaughton:
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