

3. Development of a New Long-Term Federal Plan to Fix Canada's Housing Crunch

MOVER: Mayor Robertson

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. A stable and secure housing system that creates jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to our economy by attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens;
2. The high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians, with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over \$1.1 trillion;
3. Housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians' personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk;
4. Those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units, which is driving up rental costs and making it hard to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity;
5. An inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while \$1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire;
6. Coordinated action is required to prevent housing issues from being offloaded onto local governments and align the steps local governments have already taken with regard to federal/provincial/territorial programs and policies;
7. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, "Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch," calling on the Federal Government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada's housing future;
8. FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a Council resolution supporting the campaign;

9. The City of Vancouver has a strong track record of partnering with senior levels of government on housing, including the 14 sites of social housing partnership with the Provincial Government and the renewal of the Mau Dan co-op housing with the Federal Government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council endorses the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) housing campaign and urges the Federal Minister of Employment and Social Development to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of \$1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister noted above, to the Provincial Minister responsible for housing Rich Coleman, all Vancouver MPs, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the UBCM.

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