



BC Housing

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THE CORPORATION OF
THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

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April 13th, 2018

To the City of Grand Forks,

BC Housing would like the City of Grand Forks to consider a collaboration of contribution, with the goal of achieving greater social outcomes through partnership within your community and within the Province of British Columbia. Collaboration includes government supports from your community, such as grants, concessions on property taxes, concessions on levies, waiver of development cost charges or other municipal fees, waiver of community amenity contributions, accelerated approvals, and land donation.

As the provincial housing agency, BC Housing knows that building partnerships with municipal governments - along with the private and non-profit sectors, provincial health authorities and ministries, other levels of government and community groups - is essential to maximizing the amount of housing that we can deliver to our communities. A collaborative effort is needed to realize a project, as each group can bring forward their expertise and value to achieve greater social outcomes.

We deliver housing in over 200 communities, to approximately 104,000 households, across British Columbia. Our mandate is to address critical gaps across the housing continuum, which range from emergency shelter to rent assistance in the private market to affordable home ownership. We recognize that our actions impact on local communities and ecosystems, therefore sustainability is a key part of our business strategy. BC Housing's sustainability plan "livegreen" has been in place for nearly a decade, and we continue to deliver on our core mandate while reducing environmental impacts. We want to share your commitment to ensure all three components of sustainability are considered for every project; the social, economic and environmental sustainability that form the triple bottom line towards your Sustainable Community Plan.

As you may be aware, we are currently working with the Boundary Women's Coalition Society. They have demonstrated the need for funding to build a new six bed women's transition house to replace their existing transition house, and this development will be available to women with their children who have experienced violence or are at risk of violence within the Grand Forks/Boundary area.

In January of 2016, the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation (PRHC) acquired a site with the intended use as replacement for the existing transition house location. We are facilitating the planning for the transition house replacement project and will have drawings ready for review by the City of Grand Forks. We request that you consider participating in-kind towards development cost charges, permissive property tax exemptions, accelerated approvals, or any other means for this project.

We also ask that the City consider implementing policy for future affordable and sustainable housing projects within the community. Municipal participation through changes in local policy can influence the viability of making projects happen in future. Applications from community



FILE CODE
BC Housing request
for Collaboration of Contribution

groups in the Grand Forks area will benefit from an established policy, when applications for funding are being compared against other communities with similar policies in place.

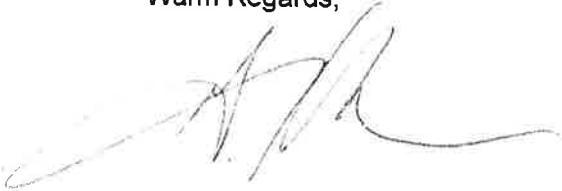
Respectfully, it is inefficient use of public dollars to provide for municipal levies of another level of government for the purpose of delivering affordable housing in the community.

Section 563 of the Local Government Act also allows City Council to waive or reduce DCCs for certain "Eligible Developments" under a number of categories, including not for profit rental housing. The waiving or reduction of DCC's must be done in accordance with a bylaw adopted by the municipality: "a Development Cost Charges Reduction Bylaw".

Any assistance the City is willing or able to provide through whatever means possible towards reducing or eliminating municipal levies would be greatly appreciated.

In closing, thank you very much for considering our request.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Maniotakis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

George Maniotakis
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