



HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

We all want a safe, decent and affordable home near where we work, shop and play. We must grow the supply of housing -- including choices by design, cost and location.

Here's some examples of how Victoria area REALTORS® have undertaken recent projects in keeping with this *Quality of Life* principle:

REALTORS® HELP FIND TREATMENT CENTRE

Quality of Life principles adopted by the Victoria Real Estate Board in July 2005 provide a framework for how Victoria area REALTORS® approach government relations, community outreach, and communications activities, helping to build influence credibility and trust in the community.



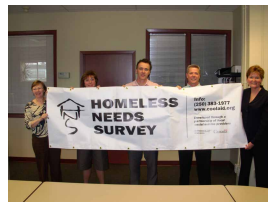
The Victoria Real Estate Board was a key participant in successful efforts to provide a new six-bed treatment facility for Crystal Meth addicts known as 'Hope House' operated by the Salvation Army. The Board agreed to host a working group meeting at the Board office every week until a property, secured the funding ways to meet any special zoning or building requirement regulations had been found.

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The process took four months of meetings, a significant contribution from a Board staff member and the volunteer time of three REALTORS® who became committed to the cause.

It's a balanced approach to accommodate growth and building better communities.

REALTORS® HELP COUNT HOMELESS



Meeting the challenge of providing housing for homeless in Greater Victoria is one of the biggest public policy issues facing local government today. The first community count of our 'homeless' population took place in 2005 and prompted a renewed sense of urgency to find solutions to this challenge.

As noted above, one of the VREB's Quality of Life principles is the need to provide housing for all, so Victoria area REALTORS® were eager to participate when it came time for the second 'COUNT' in February 2007.

The VREB is also represented on the Capital Regional District's Ad Hoc steering group for the new Regional Task Force on Homelessness, the United Way of Greater Victoria's Impact Council on Housing, and the Housing Affordability Partnership.



FEDERAL INCENTIVES FOR HOUSING PROPOSED



MPs **Denise Savoie** and **Gary Lunn**

Representatives of the Victoria Real Estate Board have paid considerable attention in recent months to the federal government finance policy with strong lobbying efforts with three local Members of Parliament for the introduction of a “capital gains rollover” provision for the *Income Tax Act*. The highlight of this lobby effort was conducted by past VREB President, **Scott Kendrew** when he met face-to-face with federal finance minister, **Hon. Jim Flaherty** at a luncheon hosted by the Conservative Party of Canada. Strong presentations have also been made to the ‘housing critic’ of the Liberal Party of Canada (thanks to efforts by **Dr. Keith Martin**, MP) and to the federal caucus of the New Democrats (thanks to strong support from local Victoria MP, **Denise Savoie**).

REAL ESTATE BOARD COMMISSIONS RESEARCH ON WOMEN’S HOUSING

More than 400 of the 1,242 ‘homeless’ counted in the 2007 Homeless Count in Greater Victoria were women and another 143 were children.

To learn more about the reality of these numbers, the reasons for them and possible solutions for improving the picture, the VREB’s Community Relations Committee has contracted with the Community Council in Greater Victoria to review what’s happening and identify gaps in the current supply of housing for women in these situations. A report should be available for public release in late Fall 2007.

REALTORS® HELP WITH NON-PROFIT HOUSING PROJECTS

VREB has also been directly instrumental in helping a number of local organizations find or provide opportunities for people in need.

Examples of this effort include a decision by the Community Relations Committee to provide a donation of over \$3,000 to the **Fernwood Resources Group** to cover the cost of architect’s fees for their planned six-unit Yukon Street project for women with families.

In addition, through work done on the United Way’s Impact Council on Housing, REALTORS® played a strong support role in advocating for a special winter pilot project in early 2007 that helped **Pacifica Housing** move 10 individuals from valuable temporary shelter housing to independent housing thereby freeing up more shelter beds for others.

And, at the special request of city hall in the City of Victoria, REALTORS® helped in the lobby effort with the provincial government to get funding for the **Herald Street ‘Taj Mahal’** project for housing and training young people at risk. The three year project is being organized by the **Youth Empowerment Society** and is planning to assist approximately 100 youths over the three year period and provide much needed graduates for the region’s hospitality sector while they’re at it.

