

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
of Vancouver Island

4349 West Saanich Road
Victoria, BC
V8Z 3E8

Phone: 250-727-0007
Fax: 250-727-0771

March 08, 2011

Christy Clark
BC Premier-Designate
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Premier-Designate Christy Clark;

**Re: Proposed Rosalie's Village Non- Profit Housing Development,
4349 West Saanich Rd., Victoria, B.C.**

First of all our Society would like to congratulate you on winning the leadership race for the BC Liberal Party and the Premier position that it will later entail.

We hope that this doesn't seem premature, but we have an important non-profit housing project for homeless-at-risk women and their small children that we wish to bring to your attention.

Notwithstanding the fact that we have two encouraging letters from Minister Coleman, we have still not received the go-ahead to proceed to the next stage of development on Rosalie's Village, despite having made our original submission to BC Housing under the Provincial Homelessness Initiative, back in the summer of 2008. Since then we have watched many projects submitted after ours, receive approval.

Perhaps you can help point us in the right direction. We want to ensure that this badly needed housing project will move forward. These homeless-at-risk women and children need access to safe affordable housing with the necessary support services to help break their cycle of homelessness as soon as possible.

The Society owns the land outright and it has been re-zoned to permit the development of 41 housing units and a Day Care Centre targeting this most vulnerable group as outlined in the attached letter to BC Housing dated October 18, 2010.

In addition to the donated land, the Society is providing approximately \$1,000,000 in cash, which makes it readily apparent, how strong our commitment to help these women and children is.

The Society has the full support of the Community, the Municipality and the Greater Victoria area, which it will serve.

We sincerely hope that you can assist us in bringing this most worthy project to fruition. We need the go-ahead from BC Housing now, to let us proceed to the next stage of development.

We feel that our Society membership has been more than patient in this regard. We are worried that the members of the Society and the community partners involved will lose all the momentum, enthusiasm and good will that have been built to date. It would be an injustice to see the will to build Rosalie's Village collapse as a result of delays with the Provincial Government approval process.

Our Society has faith, based on Minister Coleman's letters, that the Provincial Government wants to support this project, all we need now is the support of the Premier office to approve the next phase of funding.

Please find attached to the letter the correspondence referred to with BC Housing. Should you have any questions please contact me at 250-727-0007 or by email at ahudson1@svdpvictoria.com. Again, congratulations on your new position.

Sincerely,



Angela Hudson
Executive Director

Cc: Shayne Ramsay, CEO BCH
Craig Crawford BC Housing
Murray Coell, MLA
Ida Chong MLA

ROSALIE'S VILLAGE

Through our outreach work, we have identified a need for safe, affordable housing, with the right combination of supports, for women and children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Some of these women are older - leaving situations of violence and/or transition houses and some are women who do not qualify for seniors or family housing.

Some of these women are single with small children - with little or no supports. Affordable childcare services are sadly lacking. Providing housing with daycare services will enable mothers, caught in difficult social and housing situations, to work and/or attend school and improve their lives and their children's futures.

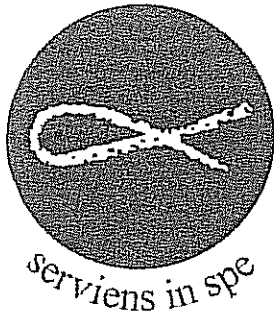
We are committed to serving the underprivileged and those without a voice. We will fund the full cost of the daycare and also contribute our own dollars towards funding the operations to ensure that services are free to the single mothers. We are contributing the land and an additional amount to equal 25% of the cost of the total project.

We are now fundraising and asking for the communities continued support for this wonderful project. If you would like to donate please go to the donation page of the website and find out the many ways that you can help. If you would like to support this project in other ways please contact us at 250-727-0007 or email info@svdpvictoria.com

Sincerely,



Angela Hudson
Executive Director



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
of Vancouver Island

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October 18, 2010

COPY

Ms. Genevieve Bucher, M. Urb.
Acting Director, Regional Development
BC Housing Management Commission
1701-4555 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC
V5H 4V8

Dear Ms. Bucher:

RE: Rosalie's Village, 4349 W. Saanich Road – Clarification of Target Population.

Dear Genevieve,

Thank you for meeting with us on October 5th, 2010. Following our discussion, we wish to clarify the target population for this project, as we understand there may be a perception that it does not fall within the Provincial Homelessness Initiative framework.

This project fits well within the Provincial Homelessness Initiative framework, as it provides homeless-at-risk women and children with access to "safe, affordable housing with the necessary support services to help break the cycle of homelessness". This project has a similar clientele to other supportive housing projects that are being funded in other parts of the province; for example, the YWCA project in Coquitlam, and the Campbell River & North Island Transition Society project in Campbell River.

The project provides 41 units of housing for the following target population:

- 20 2-bedroom units for homeless-at-risk women and children - These would include, for example, single mothers who have left situations of domestic violence, or are recovering from mental illness and addictions.
- 20 1-bedroom units for homeless-at-risk women - These would include, for example, women who have left transition houses and/or situations of domestic violence, who no longer qualify for family housing but do not yet qualify for seniors housing, or are recovering from mental illness and addictions.
- One studio unit is proposed for short-term, emergency use for women and children.

Support services for this project include:

- Free, licensed children's daycare (fully funded by the Society) allows mothers the opportunity to access support services, develop employable skills, and find employment.
- All women will have access to support services through the Society's Outreach Office (geared towards women), which will be located on site, as well as flexible multi-purpose amenity space shared with the daycare centre.

Other key considerations:

- The need for this type of housing in the Greater Victoria area is critical, and this is the only available shovel-ready development site in the Capital Regional District.
- The Society is contributing the land, which has been rezoned for the above uses and is ready for development.
- The Society's experienced staff, who provide outreach services and operate the Downtown Yates project (supportive housing for low-income adults), will also operate this building.
- The project is mixed use (apartments and townhouses), and has been designed to fit appropriately within the neighbourhood.
- The townhouses are a cost-effective method of providing two-bedroom units.
- The overall building layout has been designed to efficiently adapt to the site conditions.
- The project has the full support of the municipality and the community.
- The Society is open to discussing further opportunities to reduce the number of units, if this is deemed necessary to assist in its approval.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours Sincerely,



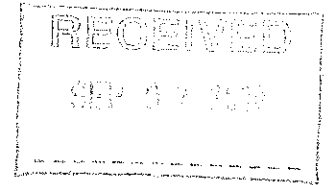
Angela Hudson
Executive Director

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Cc: Craig Crawford, BC Housing Management Commission
Deane Strongitharm, CitySpaces Consulting Ltd.



The Best Place on Earth



SEP - 2 2010

Ref: 166318

Angela Hudson, Executive Director
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island
4349 West Saanich Rd
Victoria BC V8Z 3E8

Dear Ms. Hudson:

Thank you for your June 30, 2010, follow-up letter regarding Rosalie's Village at:
4349 West Saanich Road.

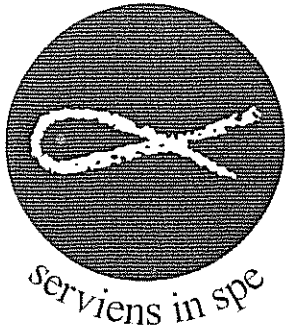
I appreciate with you providing me an update on the site for this project.

Rosalie's Village is a strong candidate for funding, and I assure you that it will be considered very favorably once further financial resources are available.

Sincerely yours,

Rich Coleman
Minister

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Victoria, BC
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June 30th, 2010

Minister Rich Coleman
Office of the Minister
Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

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Dear Minister Coleman:

Re: Proposed Rosalie's Village Non- Profit Housing Development, 4349 West Saanich Rd. Your ref:158846

Thank you very much for your letter of Feb. 18, 2010 in the above regard. We note, however, that it has been now been six months since our original letter to you requesting a funding update. You stated in your reply, that our project would be "considered favourably when further financial resources are available". In the meantime we are aware that quite a number of projects, many of which were submitted to BC Housing much later than ours, have been given the go-ahead.

Our project was originally submitted to BC Housing in the summer of 2008. As you know, we have the strong support of the Community, and are providing both land and a substantial amount of cash equity. Accordingly, we are at a loss to understand why our project has not been given the go-ahead to proceed. In view of the obvious merits of the project, this has been very disheartening and frustrating to the Society membership and all who have been involved in the efforts to see it come to fruition. This is especially true because of the obvious need and the very vulnerable group that it will serve, in the Greater Victoria area.

Please provide us with an update, as we need some encouragement for the Society to continue it's efforts in this regard. Better still, a funding announcement to proceed to the next stage of development. The site is now re-zoned and ready to go.

Sincerely,


Angela Hudson
Executive Director

Cc: Shane Ramsey, CEO BCH
Murray Coell, MLA
Ida Chong MLA



The Best Place on Earth

FEB 18 2010

Ref: 158846

Angela Hudson, Executive Director
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
of Vancouver Island
4349 W Saanich Rd
Victoria BC V8Z 3E8

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Dear Ms. Hudson:

Thank you for your December 6, 2009, letter regarding the proposed "Rosalie's Village" at 4349 West Saanich Road.

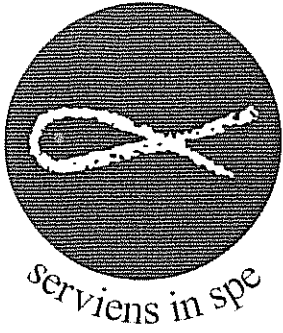
Rosalie's Village is an extremely strong project, and one which will clearly serve an important yet vulnerable group in the Greater Victoria area. The partnerships and municipal equity that your organization has brought to the table are a testament to the hard work and commitment you have shown.

As you know, the provincial government has allocated \$200,000 in project development funding. This demonstrates our support that Rosalie's Village is worthy of funding, and I assure you that the project will be considered favourably when further financial resources are available.

I appreciate that you and your organization are extremely committed to seeing your vision realized.

Sincerely yours,

Rich Coleman
Minister



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
of Vancouver Island

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Victoria, BC
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December 6th, 2009

Minister Rich Coleman
Office of the Minister
Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

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Dear Minister Coleman;

Further to your letter dated November 24th, 2009 addressed to Mary Spencer, President, I am writing to ask your advice on how to communicate to our Vancouver Island Catholic community the delay in approving our proposed housing and daycare for homeless women and children.

Without any formalized fundraising our Rosalie's Village concept has spread with enthusiasm throughout the community bringing hope for a better future for these children and their families. Rosalie's Village has received, in trust, over \$70,000 earmarked for this project. It has been over a year and our Society cannot communicate to the donors and their families any idea when, or if, the project will be approved. Our member's have also started to discuss the possibility that some or all of the donated funds may have to be returned to the donors if the project is not going ahead.

In addition, the Capital Regional Housing Trust Fund has earmarked \$600,000 for this project. Recent communication with representatives of the Capital Regional Housing Trust Fund suggests that if the Society does not receive approval (even in principle) from BC Housing soon these funds may be made available for another project.

Our Society recently met with Tim Woods, administrator from the Municipality of the District of Saanich and asked if the Municipality would support the Society in raising awareness of this project. Mr. Woods indicated that they have been waiting since spring for BC Housing to start working with them on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). To that end, please find attached a letter from Mr. Woods formally reflecting their desire to work with BC Housing on this project.

Subsequent to Mary Spencer sending you the letter September 30th, we have reviewed our proposal to BC Housing and resubmitted the proposal based on two scenarios (the capital figures have not changed).

- One scenario shows a capital grant from BC Housing for \$7,572,000 and no operating subsidy at all.
- The other scenario shows a capital grant of \$3,887,100 and an ongoing operating subsidy of \$420 per month per unit.

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Our Society is committed to contributing 25% to the capital cost of this project, in addition to providing all of the ongoing resident programming cost (consciously without Vancouver Island Health Authority funding). Over and above the contribution of the \$1.6M worth of land, St. Vincent de Paul must, and will, raise the additional \$1,000,000 necessary to see this project completed – we are committed to it. We are only asking the same of the Province.

It is imperative that we start an active fundraising campaign and without even a letter of conditional approval from BC Housing our Society does not see how, in good faith, we can move forward in our fundraising efforts.

I see before us four options:

1. BC Housing funds the \$7,572,209 capital grant and no further funding. (i.e.: operating subsidy) and in 18 months the province joins with us, the federal government and the municipal government in providing adequate homes and secure daycare for 40 homeless women and over 30 homeless children.
2. BC Housing funds the \$3,887,100 capital grant and an on-going operating subsidy of \$420 per month per unit with the same results as number 1 above.
3. BC Housing issues the Society a conditional letter of approval for this project – permitting the Society to begin a fundraising campaign. This immediately results in a launching of a public fundraising campaign by our Society within our community and a public acknowledgement of the efforts of the Province, Federal Government and the Municipal Government to address the homelessness of these women and children.
4. BC Housing issues a letter of “thanks but no available funding at this time” and the Society communicates to the community and the donors that we have received notification that at this time the project is not going forward - in a time when BC has the highest child poverty rate in Canada for the sixth year in a row.

If your Ministry is unable to assist us with any of the options 1 – 3, I am praying that your Ministry has another option we have not thought of. How do we say to the community we are building this project – we can't? Please help us, help the children.

Over the next few weeks - I, along with our President and senior staff will be meeting with our local Federal and Provincial representatives to discuss possible options and public awareness for the plight of these children and their mothers.

Attached is the letter from the Municipality of Saanich and the two budget options discussed above. Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you have any ideas.

Sincerely,



Angela Hudson
Executive Director

Cc: Shane Ramsey, CEO BCH