

## **NEWS RELEASE**

December 12, 2012

## RDN WEBSITE FEATURES NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING SECTION

Updates to the Affordable Housing section of the Regional District of Nanaimo's website will make it easier for those seeking suitable housing to find the resources they need.

"I would like to acknowledge the guidance of representatives from the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness and the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness throughout this important process," said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope. "The new section of our website highlights the work that the RDN and other organizations are doing to increase housing choice and affordability in the region. It also provides information about housing resources throughout the RDN, including maps directing people to the shelters in our communities."

To make it easier to learn about the various types of housing resources within RDN municipalities and electoral areas, the RDN has separated the webpage into housing categories. Visitors to the site can learn about housing for youth, seniors, renters and homeowners, as well as supportive housing and emergency shelter options, by clicking on photographs related to the topics. The site also includes information on housing incentives, a regional housing resource list, and a link to the Vancouver Island Crisis Society's Community Resource Database.

Ideally, affordable, appropriate and adequate housing should be available for people of all abilities, incomes, lifestyles and household sizes. Achieving this goal requires an integrative, collaborative approach involving RDN member municipalities, non-profits working to address housing issues in the RDN, and other levels of government (Federal, Provincial and First Nations).

To view the new section of the website, or to learn more about affordable housing in the RDN, visit <a href="www.rdnhousing.ca">www.rdnhousing.ca</a>. The web pages are a work in progress and will be updated as new information and ideas come forward.

A hard copy of the information may be obtained from the City of Parksville, main office.

-30-

**Contact:** Paul Thompson

Manager, Long Range Planning Regional District of Nanaimo 250-390-6510 or 250-954-3798