



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW ASSISTED LIVING UNITS COMING TO VICTORIA

VICTORIA – Seniors in Victoria will have improved access to local support services when 30 additional assisted living units open by 2008.

Marrion Gardens in Oak Bay, which is operated by the Baptist Housing Society, has been awarded a contract to operate nine additional units, in addition to 29 publicly funded units previously announced. These units will open in Spring 2007. The Capital Region Housing Corporation has been awarded a contract to develop 21 assisted living units, which they have contracted with Beckley Farm Lodge to operate. The 21 units, which will open in Summer 2008, are funded by BC Housing's Independent Living BC Program (ILBC).

“These new assisted living units will provide Victoria seniors with the supports they need while allowing them to retain their independence,” said Minister of Health, George Abbott. “These units are part of the government’s commitment to build 5000 new residential care beds and assisted living units in British Columbia by the end of 2008.”

The unique partnership between the Capital Region Housing Corporation and Beckley Farm was crafted by the SHAPE Committee, an umbrella group in James Bay dedicated to addressing a need for affordable seniors’ housing in that community. The project will be an affordable part of a community of care at 408 Parry Street, and will depend on Beckley Farm Lodge's services and programs.

“These additional assisted living units will provide more opportunities for seniors in Victoria to relocate to a facility that provides both independence and an appropriate level of care,” said Oak Bay–Gordon Head MLA Ida Chong. “Our government’s ongoing work to create more assisted living units will have a very positive impact on our community.”

In January 2006, a VIHA RFP sought proposals from not-for-profit and private operators to build and operate 1,230 residential care beds and assisted living units throughout the health authority. This included approximately 930 additional net new beds and units by 2010 (727 of those to be completed by December 2008) as well as flexibility for approximately 300 replacement beds in the future.

(more)

In Victoria, VIHA sought proposals for 185 residential care beds and 55 assisted living units in Victoria. The 185 residential care beds and 25 of the assisted living units were awarded to the Ahmon Group in July 2006. The contracts announced today with the Baptist Housing Society and Capital Regional Housing Corp/Beckley Farm Lodge is for the remainder of the assisted living units.

“VIHA is committed to developing and enhancing services that support our growing and aging population,” said Jac Kreut, Board Chair, Vancouver Island Health Authority. “These contracts are the last in a series of projects related to the RFP that will significantly increase our residential care and assisted living capacity, improve access to services for seniors and help reduce pressures on our emergency departments.”

VIHA received approximately 50 submissions to the RFP. Contracts have been awarded and development is underway for new residential care facilities in Campbell River, Courtenay, Parksville, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Duncan, Victoria and Sooke.

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