

## Update on Status of VIP Motel Temporary Housing

The City of Parksville has issued a compliance agreement for BC Housing to bring the VIP Motel property at 414 Island Highway West into zoning compliance. Parksville Council is confident this agreement will address the many concerns expressed by residents and businesses and provide a reasonable timeframe to find safe alternative accommodation for residents now living at this location.

Since November 2021, the VIP Motel has operated as a temporary supportive housing facility under a partnership between Oceanside Homelessness Ecumenical Advocacy Response Team Society (OHEARTS) and BC Housing. The lease between BC Housing and the VIP Motel will expire on March 31, 2023. This site was always intended as a temporary solution and BC Housing remains committed to finding permanent, safe and secure housing for vulnerable people in our community.

Earlier this year, the City received a Temporary Use Permit application from BC Housing on behalf of the owner of the VIP Motel. The property is currently zoned Tourist Commercial CS-2 (allowing uses such as hotel/motel, restaurant, resort condominiums, other related tourism commercial uses) and is designated for commercial tourism uses in the City's Official Community Plan (OCP). The land use regulations are intended to provide tourist lodging and other services to visitors to the community. Because CS-2 zoning does not include a supportive housing facility as a permitted use, a valid Temporary Use Permit or a rezoning is required to comply with the zoning regulations.

A public meeting was held on September 7 at which time, Council listened to concerns about the impact on tourism, surrounding businesses, and heard from residents both opposed and in favour of the facility operating in this location. Council denied BC Housing's application for a Temporary Use Permit; the zoning infraction is now being handled through the City's compliance and enforcement division. The compliance agreement provides BC Housing with 180 days to find suitable alternative housing options for the residents and includes a commitment from BC Housing to provide ongoing social supports to individuals during the transition and continue its engagement with the neighbourhood on management of the facility.

### QUOTE – MAYOR ED MAYNE

"The VIP Motel temporary housing is a complex situation. Council does not wish to see residents negatively impacted; however, we recognized the location is not supportable and does not meet the vision outlined in the OCP or the current zoning. This compliance agreement will provide BC Housing with time to provide safe alternative accommodations for residents now living at the motel."

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### For more information:

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