

Toasting a New Era

Thanks to an unprecedented collaborative effort spanning the public, private and non-profit sectors, BC's Capital Regional District (CRD) has adopted an affordable housing strategy that aims to reduce homelessness and assist those in core housing need.

The Regional Housing Affordability Strategy was formally approved by the CRD board on March 7, and will apply to all 13 of the region's municipalities in and around Victoria.



"I'd like to open a bottle of champagne," says Mabel Jean Rawlins-Brannan, executive director of the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria, one of the many groups that worked tirelessly for the adoption of the strategy.

"It's taken over six years to develop," she explains. "And to get all 13 municipalities to agree on a common strategy for both housing affordability and homelessness has been a major piece of work. But the outcome is that there is a high degree of commitment to addressing this issue."

For others engaged in similar campaigns, Rawlins-Brannan had this advice: "Don't give up. It takes a long time. Building partnerships when you have real differences of opinion is hard work, so just hold the vision and keep pushing towards it."

 [Download the CRD's Regional Housing Affordability Strategy here.](#)

Related Links:

- [Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria](#)
- [Housing Affordability Partnership of BC's Capital Region](#)

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