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SAFERhome Standards Society
#205 - 2006 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2B3



A better standard of living™

November 03, 2009



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Karen Goodings, Mayor (Chair) of Peace River
Box 810
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

Dear Mayor (Chair) Karen Goodings and Council,

The SAFERhome Standards Society had a booth at the UBCM conference in September, and took the opportunity to talk with numerous delegates from municipalities throughout the province. It became obvious SAFERhome Standards has the tool kit to deliver the type of housing our communities desperately need.

SAFERhome Standards Society was founded in 2004 and is a non-profit public interest organization incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia, and is funded through The Ministry of Housing and BC Housing. The SAFERhome Standards mission is to promote the adoption and use of housing standards and practices that are safe, healthy, and sustainable for everyone in the community. To achieve its objective, SAFERhome provides home planning assistance, and home inspection and certification programs for the new home construction industry. SAFERhome also provides educational programs, publications, seminars, and public speakers for functions while acting as a public interest lobby group with government and industry for the adoption of SAFERhome building standards and practices. A SAFERhome solves many of the dilemmas we face today like seniors aging in place, senior's safety in the home, child safety, independence through technologies. and environmental control and energy savings in the home.

- By 2032 according to Stats Canada, 48% of all Canadians will be over 65 years old.
- Over the next 30 years the 85+ age group is projected to increase 3 fold (200% increase).
- Urban Futures research shows a net increase of 142% for a total of 836,483 people over the age of 65 in BC alone over the next 30 years.
- Seniors' demand for owner occupied, ground oriented dwellings will increase by 194% between 2005 and 2035.
- Seniors' demand for owner occupied apartments will increase 156%.
- In 2005 Vancouver Coastal Health lost over 14,000 hospital days, between \$5000 – \$8000 a day, to accommodating people in the health care system that could not access their homes after surgery. That translates into a \$50 million expense in Vancouver alone.
- Three billion dollars a year is being spent on hip replacement surgery for seniors nationally.
- Approximately 30% of all seniors who require a hip replacement from a falling accident die within 1 year of the accident. Over 50% never leave the health care system (\$\$\$), and never regain their independence.

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Making homes look better, work better, and worth more!

Nov 26 2009

- Seniors are at the highest risk of having an accident in the home; children under the age of 5 are second.
- Over 800 BC seniors died last year from falling accidents.
- CMHC findings show we need to build 50,000 homes every year for the next 20 years in Canada just to keep up with our seniors' housing demands.
- 80% of children in Children's Hospital are there as a result of an injury in the home.
- 11% of all annual ambulance calls are due to falling accidents in the home.
- 90% of all accidents occur in the home.
- 50% of home injuries happen on stairs.

Every individual municipality in the province is involved in looking for or developing the criteria to adapt housing to the changing community need. Even the Adaptable Housing Committee is working on a provincial level with the problem. This process is costing the tax payer more than is necessary because of the redundancy of the work; further, the end products vary in their criteria based on the individual group's research.

The visible minority is now being measured at 51% of the community...in fact, it is now the visible *majority*. Traditionally we segregate and label these housing products...this is seniors housing, this is accessible housing. As a direct byproduct, we "label the people" who live in the environments.

So what can *you* do to reach and maintain a long term sustainability position while working in the community's best interest? How do you tap into the largest community pool of people out there? In other words how can we build one product that meets the needs of the *majority* of the public, rather than creating more segregated and negatively labeled housing?

The answer is simple; it's called the **SAFERhome Standards** and it provides a home that looks better, works better, and is worth more. By adopting these standards you will make everyone aware of solid option, common sense, affordable housing solutions... *proven* solutions like Universal Design and the SAFERhome Standards Toolkit.

SAFERhome Standards offers the only "Measurable Universal and Accessible to All Users" Building Standard -- a simple "tool kit" for implementing effective and affordable change, change that meets the needs of sustainable communities, consumers, and developers. Currently the SAFERhome Standards Society provides the only certification program in Canada that addresses the issues of human sustainability, and the application of Universal Design.

The SAFERhome Standards offers governments the opportunity to build the first truly sustainable community models, ones that for the first time, include the human element. In other words, SAFERhome offers the opportunity to build housing that works for a multitude of potential buyer groups – i.e. seniors, young and multi generational families, and anyone with any form of special need.

The SAFERhome Certification Program has proven to have on-site construction cost of less than \$1100 per housing unit for single family, and less than \$700 for multi-family. The SAFERhome "tool kit" is a cost-effective and efficient means for consumers and developers to ensure housing meets the rapidly changing needs of our population.

The program is a simple 19-point design overlay (available free to members for download off our website) for any new residential or commercial building plan. The standards do not involve any changes to existing building codes or bylaws.



The program only needs the support of local and provincial governments to encourage and promote that Universal Design be incorporated into all new housing.

We are asking for your support in implementing these standards in your municipality through Municipal Membership or Municipal Sponsorship.

Municipal Membership includes (\$1,300.00):

- 25% discount on staff training and seminars.
- Logo recognition on SAFERhome Standards website
- Free handout materials for distribution through your planning department
- 50% discount on SAFERhome Standards manual for building department employees
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Municipal Sponsorship includes (\$2,600.00):

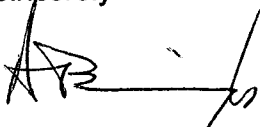
- 50% discount on staff training and seminars
- Logo recognition and link to municipal website on SAFERhome Standards website
- Free handout materials for distribution through your planning department
- Logo recognition as a sponsoring municipality on all new SAFERhome printed materials
- Logo recognition as a sponsoring municipality on all SAFERhome signage at conferences, seminars, and special events
- 75% discount on SAFERhome Standards manual for building department employees

For more information on institutional and charter membership, please contact us toll free at 1.877.944.2224 or our main line at 604-733-2224.

SAFERhome Certified houses are more saleable, and provide the purchaser with a value added real estate investment by delivering measurable Universal housing solutions. More importantly the community is healthier, both economically and emotionally, with tangible safety designs in their home.

Thank you for your support, please contact us for more information and we will be calling you shortly.

Sincerely



Andy Burianyk, Director

SAFERhome Standards Society



SAFERhome Membership Application Form

Membership Categories include... (Please choose one)

- Individual \$ 35
- Corporate/Professional \$ 1,000
- Municipal member \$ 1,300
- Municipal sponsor \$ 2600
- Institutional \$ 10,000
- Charter \$ 50,000



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

NAME:

TEL

COMPANY (IF APPLICABLE)

FAX

ADDRESS

EMAIL (OPTIONAL)

CITY

PROV

POSTAL CODE

PRINT application form and FAX or mail with payment to:
 SAFERhome Standards Society
 205 – 2006 West 10th Avenue
 Vancouver, BC V6J 2B3

Please make cheque payable to:SAFERhome Standards Society