



Vancouver, March 8, 2011

**Mayor and Council
City of Richmond**

Dear Mayor and Council:

I would like to request the opportunity to come before Mayor and Council to present the SAFERhome Standards Society.

The SAFERhome Standards Society is a nonprofit organization funded through the Ministry of Housing and BC Housing to tell communities that they can build to the SAFERhome Standards today. This standard leads to inclusivity in the built environment without segregation or labeling.

SAFERhome is a measurable home standard promoting solutions to the community that will directly assist and address our changing community market housing needs. Due to the lengthy process of building code changes, this program was designed with community input to bring solutions and encourage momentum that will promote building code changes in the future.

Currently both Maple Ridge and The Township of Langley have voted to take a proactive stance and are already sharing this housing solution directly with their communities and home builders/developers.

Please let me know the soonest date possible to present to your municipality and council.

Sincerely,

SAFERhome Standards Society

Patrick Simpson
Executive Director

Enclosures

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

SAFERhome Standards Society
205 – 2006 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2B3
TEL: 604.733.2224 | FAX: 604.731.4003
EMAIL: info@SAFERhomeSociety.com

www.SAFERhomeSociety.com

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Some of the reasons why we are delivering housing solutions:

- By 2032 according to Stats Canada, we will go from one in nine people being seniors to 48% of all Canadians being 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 at a cost of between 5000 – 8000 dollars a day, to accommodating people in the health care system that could not access their homes after surgery. That translated 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.
- 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.
- 1,000 Canadians turned 65 *today*.

Every individual municipality in the province is involved in looking for or developing criteria to adapt and provide housing parameters to address changing community needs.

Due to changes in the demographics of the population, for example, the visible minority (people with disability, seniors, ethnicity) is now being measured at 51% of the community...therefore, in fact, it is the visible *majority*. Traditionally, housing products are tailored to specific needs, eg. senior housing, accessible housing, however, as a direct by-product segregation and labeling was introduced.



So what can you do to reach and maintain a long term sustainability inclusive position 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 you 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**. It provides a normal market home that addresses those needs and "looks better, works better and is worth more". By adopting these standards and making these voluntary standards a "**policy**" of the municipality, you will make everyone aware of a common sense, solid option, that are easily and inexpensively integrated, in the process providing affordable housing solutions.

SAFERhome Standards is the only "Measurable Universal 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 specific 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 options, ones that are finally including the human element. In other words, SAFERhome offers the opportunity to build housing that works for a multitude of potential groups – i.e. you, me, seniors, youngsters and multi generational families and anyone with any form of special need or a desire to be more energy efficient.

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 for any new residential or commercial building plan. The standards do not involve any changes to existing building codes or bylaws. All of the SAFERhome criteria are just a simple clarification of the existing codes.

Now the program only needs the proactive support of local governments to encourage and promote that the SAFERhome Standards be incorporated into all new housing.

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



Municipal Membership (\$1,300.00):

All of the core benefits and privileges plus:

- One initial free two hour training session for staff;
- 80 manuals free (at \$19.95 each) plus 25% discount on SAFERhome Standards manuals for building department;
- 25% discount on additional staff training and seminars;
- Logo recognition on SAFERhome Standards website.

2nd year benefits:

- all the above plus:
- 60% discount on SAFERhome Standards manuals.

For more information on institutional and charter membership, please contact us at 604-733-2224 or toll free 1.877.944.2224 or email: info@saferhomesociety.com.

SAFERhome certified houses are a value added real estate investment that delivers measurable Universal housing solutions. More importantly the community is healthier and more inclusive both economically, and emotionally with simple and commonsense safety designs in their home.

Thank you for your support!