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NEWS RELEASE

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**RESIDENTIAL CARE RENEWAL TAKES STEP FORWARD**

VICTORIA – Plans to renew residential care services have taken big step forward with the signing of an agreement to move ahead with the development of a $60.5 million, 260-bed residential care facility on Carey Road.

“Our government is committed to providing seniors with the health care supports and services they require as they age,” said Ida Chong, MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head and Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. “This new seniors’ care facility will provide high- quality care in a modern environment for seniors on Southern Vancouver Island.”

Under the terms of the new agreement, *The Heights at Mt. View* will be built on CRHD-owned land on Carey Road in Saanich. The partnership between CRHD, Baptist Housing and VIHA will see the CRHD contribute $18.1 million for capital costs and retain public ownership of the land. The land will be leased for a nominal fee to Baptist Housing for 25 years and VIHA will provide operating funding to Baptist Housing to provide care and related services. Baptist Housing is also making a contribution to the project through a $1.0 million grant.

“VIHA is very pleased that we can now make real progress in renewing some of the outdated residential care capacity that is in dire need of replacement,” said Howard Waldner, VIHA’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

Construction of the *Mt. View* project will start immediately and is expected to take approximately 26 months.

“The development of this new care residence is the culmination of over ten years of planning,” said Howard Johnson, Baptist Housing’s President and CEO. “Baptist Housing is extremely excited to be moving forward on this project where we will be able to improve the quality of care for our Residents and provide a homelike environment that meets the needs of residents, families and team members.”

“The Capital Regional Hospital District is committed to quality seniors’ care in the region as part of our contribution to improving healthcare facilities,” said CRHD Board Chair Graham Hill. “Reaching a partnership agreement for the development of *The Heights at Mt. View* was a primary objective of the CRHD in achieving the vision of a ‘campus of care’ on the Mt. View site.”

In November 2009, VIHA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking proponents to provide 325-500 publicly-funded new and replacement residential care beds and units, including the replacement of Oak Bay Lodge and Mount Tolmie Hospital. Baptist Housing emerged as the successful proponent with a proposal to replace up to 580 residential care beds in the Greater Victoria area.

The CRHD became involved in the proposal at the invitation of Baptist Housing. Under the original proposal, the CRHD would have contributed the Carey Road land as a 25 year ground lease to Baptist Housing to replace 260 beds at Central Care Home and Mount Edwards Court. Ownership of the property at Oak Bay Lodge would have been transferred to the CRHD with a 25 year ground lease to Baptist Housing. The CRHD had agreed to a capital contribution of up to $40 million ($19 million for Carey Road and $21 million for Oak Bay Lodge) for the projects if they both proceeded as proposed.

The Oak Bay Lodge site was removed from the proposal after Oak Bay Council rejected the application for planning variances at the Oak Bay Lodge site. The CRHD has severed its participation in the Oak Bay Lodge replacement project and the replacement of the 320 beds at Oak Bay Lodge and Mount Tolmie will now be part of a new RFP. This RFP is currently under development and is expected to be tendered in the coming months.

Baptist Housing is a faith-based, non-profit organization that has been providing housing and compassionate care for seniors in British Columbia since 1964. Baptist Housing owns and operates a full range of seniors housing and care services in the Capital Region including; affordable seniors housing at Carey Place and Elgin Gardens, independent living at Shannon Oaks, assisted living and affordable housing at Marrion Village, and residential care at Central Care and Mount Edwards Court Care Homes.

The Capital Regional Hospital District is a subsidiary of the Capital Regional District (CRD) and provides the local share of capital funding for the region’s publicly-funded health facilities and the purchase of hospital equipment.

VIHA is responsible for the delivery of $1.9 billion in community, hospital and residential care to more than 750,000 people on Vancouver Island, the islands of the Georgia Strait, and in the mainland communities north of Powell River and south of Rivers Inlet.

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