



Metlakatla Development Corporation

May 3, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The Metlakatla Development Corporation (MDC) is inviting all members of the public to learn more about an exciting new seniors housing project planned for Prince Rupert during a May 15 information session.

Following extensive research and community consultation, MDC is proposing to construct an Elders/Seniors Village at the former King Edward School Site on 7th Avenue East. Current plans for the site include 32 affordable rental units contained within two two-storey complexes as well as 10 units of row housing available for those wanting to downsize. Along with ample parking spaces, the seniors village would feature landscaped courtyards, gardens and common areas for social gatherings.

To meet the wide range of needs of seniors on the North Coast, these self-contained units would range in size from 650 square feet to 850 square feet and include considerations for elders with special needs.

“Our research has shown that seniors or those looking to retire soon have a wide range of wants and needs when it comes to housing. By offering units of different sizes and configurations and blending opportunities for social interaction with self-contained units that offer a private lifestyle, the new seniors housing development will meet the needs of all potential tenants,” said MDC CEO Harold Leighton.

As an organization that is deeply committed to the region, MDC is committed to creating a project that will benefit the entire North Coast. As such, the Board of Directors not only allocated the land for the project but also indicated that the buildings are to be constructed to the international Passive House standard of energy efficiency – the world’s highest and most verified level of energy efficiency.

“This project will not only offer seniors a high quality, affordable housing option but the Passive standard ensures the environmental footprint is minimized. The innovative design honours Coast Tsimshian culture while attempting to blend with the existing neighbourhood,” said project manager Taylor Zeeg.

Funding for the project is provided by the BC Government as part of an agreement negotiated with the Metlakatla Governing Council.

The information session will take place at the Lester Centre of the Arts beginning at 5 p.m. on May 15, 2017. Staff will be on hand to address questions and there will be a presentation by the project architect beginning at 6 p.m.

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