

Sunshine Coast Lions Housing Society
Press Release
November 18, 2017

Sunshine Coast Lions Housing Society (the Society) owns and operates the Greenecourt affordable independent living rental housing complex in downtown Sechelt for seniors and persons with disabilities. The complex is comprised of five apartment buildings and the Lions Hall. Two of the apartment buildings (known as Blocks B & C) containing 29 units are nearing the end of their life span and do not provide sufficient accommodation to meet the growing wait list. The Society began planning a year ago to remove the older buildings and replace them with a new five-storey, 99-unit building to maximize the accommodation in the complex and provide 70 new affordable rental suites for seniors and other qualified persons which are all urgently required in the community.

The tenants in Blocks B & C were all hand delivered notices on February 17, 2017 which stated in part:

“This will require that the units in these two buildings be vacated. We want to organize this so there is as little disruption, and as few homes as possible are lost. We envision that the construction will commence within the next eighteen months to two years.

As space becomes available in other buildings in Greenecourt, we would like to offer them first to existing tenants of Blocks B & C before making them available to other persons on the waiting list. This will help ensure that the tenants of Blocks B & C will have a home during and after construction.”

The Society has been moving tenants from Blocks B & C as suites become available in the other Greenecourt buildings and not renting any of the suites that become vacant in Blocks B & C. The Society is offering the suites in the other buildings, in order, to those tenants in Blocks B & C based on the length of time they have been living there. If a tenant turns down an offer to move, that tenant will go to the bottom of the waiting list. The Society is doing its best to move all the tenants in Blocks B & C but it can't move them until another suite becomes available and that only happens if someone moves to another facility, moves away, or sadly, passes away. To date, of the 29 units in Blocks B & C, 11 have been vacated and 18 tenants remain.

The Society is still waiting for many levels of approval and from the date of this press release it might be one year to eighteen months before it is ready to have Blocks B & C vacated and removed. If there are still tenants in the cottages when the Society is ready to proceed with the new building, they will be given proper notice to move and the Society would be pleased to welcome those tenants back to Greenecourt when the new building is completed. This was also noted in the aforementioned letter of February 17, 2017.

The Society's Property Operations Manager, Bob Morgan, has advised, when asked by the tenants, that they are free to explore any other rental options now in anticipation of Society's future building plans. While the Society is making every effort to rehouse existing tenants into its other buildings as suites become available, it is a lengthy process and if the tenants are able to arrange acceptable alternate rental accommodation for themselves in the interim, the Society encourages them to do so.

There have been recent rumours that the Society is evicting the tenants. That is NOT true. The Society is doing its absolute best to accommodate them on site in one of its other buildings.

For your information, the Society is holding a public open house on November 28th to show the public what is being proposed as part of the rezoning application process. It is NOT a public hearing as required by the District of Sechelt; that will come at a later date. The open house is from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. There will be display boards to show what is proposed and Society members will be there to answer questions and hopefully to get written comments back from those in attendance. A previous similar open house was held for the Greenecourt tenants only on November 2.

Please consider this as your invitation to the open house. I hope you can make it and I look forward to seeing you there.

Robert Allen
President

Sunshine Coast Lions Housing Society

robert.allen.bcls@gmail.com
604-740-1600