
From: Psimpson [psimpson@saferhomesociety.com]
Sent: January 14, 2010 10:16 AM
To: MayorandCouncil
Subject: Request to present the SAFERhome Standards Program to Council as a Delegation

Dear Mayor and Council,

As our communities are evolving, we are experiencing a huge demographic shift with the aging of our population. The latest Statistics Canada figures reveal the number of older adults and seniors in our communities will continue to increase at unprecedented rates. By the year 2032, 48% of Canadians will be over 65 years old. Seniors traditionally use canes, walkers, scooters, and wheelchairs to maintain their independence. So, this is not just about access for a few local wheelchair users – it is about serving half the community with appropriate housing standards to keep them safe, independent and active, in their homes.

By incorporating the SAFER Standards as a policy within the West Vancouver planning department the result is a measurable and tangible “Gold Standard” in universal home design which will make any home a legacy to the community.

‘Access’ no longer refers to a narrow scope of remedies for just wheelchair users. Accessible design is the application of universal design principles to improve the safety, convenience, and value for all users. To be inclusive and universal in the new millennium, homes must also accommodate grandparents, parents, and small children to safely use their home as a resource for the future.

- Every time a senior falls and breaks a hip it costs our healthcare system \$118,000.
Federal Minister of National Health Care, 2000
- 30% of seniors who fall and break their hip will die within one year of the accident.
BC Falls Prevention, 2008
- In 2008, over 800 seniors died of falling related accidents in BC.
BC Falls Prevention, 2008

If the community needs or wants a more sustainable lifestyle option built into all new developments, you can have it all. Just insist on having anything being built meet the SAFERhome Certification criteria. If the SAFERhome program is used as a condition of a development, the planning and permit departments can say “prove it” and make any occupancy permits subject to: “Written proof of successful SAFERhome Certification!”

The SAFERhome Standards are within all existing bylaws and regulations, they are simply a clarification of those existing standards.

The SAFERhome partners and volunteers are working to empower and protect consumers and communities who want or need a home to enhance their lifestyles. The SAFERhome program is a clear and simple way of accurately measuring the built environment for these fundamental SAFERhome universal design guidelines.

Our delegation and speaker is Patrick Simpson, he will be asking you to become proactive with the society and to work with us to provide the municipal staff with the relevant information that is needed implement this housing option directly to the builders and the community at large, today.

Regards

Patrick Simpson
Executive Director
The SAFERhome Standards Society
205 – 2006 West 10th Ave
Vancouver B.C. V6J 2B3
Office 604-733-2224
Toll Free 1-877-944-2224
Cell # 604-803-7443
The Vancouver Resource Society Switchboard.
604-731-1020 extension 220
psimpson@saferhomesociety.com
www.saferhomesociety.com