



## **Continuing the momentum – working with partners to facilitate future renewal and growth of our community**

### **For Immediate Release Summerside PE**

**November 16, 2020** - Today, Summerside City Council is building on the momentum of recent development opportunities by entering a Memorandum of Understanding with APM, Kings Square Housing and Bayside Builders to redevelop the old vocational school property at the corner of Granville and Ryan Streets. This represents the culmination of many years of effort by all partners as well as City residents in advocating for a solution to help provide for greater access to affordable housing and to better our community. The City will work with APM, Kings Square Housing, and Bayside Builders to redevelop the property and to breathe new life into this section of Granville Street.

“We are excited to be taking this positive step in re-developing this section of the city”, said Councillor Brian McFeely, Chair of Economic Development. “Not only does it allow us to address the status of vacant property on what is very attractive real estate, it opens up the possibility of further development and to make this the signature residential and commercial area in the city”.

“This property has been discussed and debated for well over 10 years on how to facilitate a rejuvenation strategy in collaboration with all our partners, and more recently given the decaying condition of the property itself. Council felt something bold had to happen to support our investments city-wide,” said Mayor Basil Stewart. “This decision was not taken lightly, but when you get into a situation where there’s really no one that’s going to do it and the property and underlying infrastructure will deteriorate and negatively impact neighboring businesses, buildings and significant investments in downtown , we as a City needed to fill that void.”

The plan calls for the construction of a 60-unit affordable housing apartment complex, as well as 30 micro housing units. Construction of the micro units is tentatively scheduled to get underway in February 2021, with the affordable housing units to follow starting in May 2021. Plans are still in progress for the northern portion of the building (in which sits the old swimming pool), and the partnership will announce these plans as soon as they are confirmed. The overarching goal is to maximum the use of this property for the community’s benefit.

“This direction is consistent with the past actions of City Council,” the Mayor stated. “One of Council’s top priorities is to grow the community’s tax base and enhance the availability of affordable housing in our community.” The total cost of this project is estimated to be in the range of \$20 million for this first phase, of which the City will contribute an estimated \$1.3 million towards the enabling municipal infrastructure.

“Well today I know has been a long time coming for the Citizens of Summerside and for myself and our company. There has been nothing more I wanted to achieve than to start the redevelopment of this property - it has been challenging from the day we acquired it to find the right economic conditions to bring the full redevelopment to market, quotes Tim Banks CEO of APM Properties.



We are pleased to be part of this collaborative partnership and have the opportunity to help transform this property, quotes Peter Brown of Bayside Builders. “Our company, a local company is very excited to be part of this amazing transformation and group.

“Being part of this project and bringing new affordable housing options to the Summerside marketplace is something that our group looks forward to participating in. Our Island track record of bringing quality building stock to the market is something that we excel at and being responsive to the needs of Islanders is something that we work hard to achieve”, quotes Bill Campbell of Kings Square Group.

The City and partners have taken a major leadership step for our community. One of our goals has been to find a collaborative way to address significant issues in our community when it comes to our building stock. This strategic move for the citizens of Summerside will bring many benefits to the community and enable further growth within our city.

#### Media Contacts

Brian McFeely  
City of Summerside  
[brian.mcfely@city.summerside.pe.ca](mailto:brian.mcfely@city.summerside.pe.ca)

Rob Philpott  
City of Summerside  
[rob.philpott@city.summerside.pe.ca](mailto:rob.philpott@city.summerside.pe.ca)