



Jean Crowder, MP

Nanaimo-Cowichan



PACIFIC GARDENS COHOUSING
Personal Message from Member of Parliament, Jean Crowder

CONSTRUCTION CELEBRAION AND OPEN HOUSE
May 7, 2008

The search for solutions to the housing crisis, for opportunities to create meaningful community and for responsible environmental approaches to all these issues is a worthwhile task. I appreciate the interest, commitment and creativity required to develop a conscientious housing model as illustrated by the volunteers of the Pacific Gardens Cohousing Community.

As my duties in Ottawa preclude my attendance, I send regrets at not being able to attend today's proceedings, but provide congratulations on the continued progress of this project.

The model before us positions Nanaimo as a leader in a form of housing that promotes diversity and collaboration. We must find ways to support organizations that strive to build to LEEDS environmental guidelines, optimize existing site and community benefits, and that works within a neighbourhood model that incorporates community decision making and thoughtful structures of governance.

The goals of this project bring to mind words of Aldo Leopold, an ecologist, who said, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." Congratulations on the successes to date and for the progress towards a healthier community.

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