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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development

### **PROVINCE WELCOMES INPUT ON ADAPTABLE HOUSING STANDARDS**

VICTORIA – Proposed adaptable housing standards that will benefit people with limited mobility are now available online for public input, Housing and Social Development Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

The proposal provides adaptable housing standards that would be included during construction of new residential, multi-unit buildings. Creating adaptable suites means that accessibility features can be added more easily and inexpensively to the home after construction. For example, the proposed standards would provide extra reinforcement in bathroom walls to allow grab bars to be installed if needed later. Also included in the proposed standards are: wider doorways; accessible entranceways; and easy-to-use light switches, door handles, faucets and other hardware.

Adaptable housing features will benefit anyone whose mobility is limited due to age, disability, illness or accident by making it easier for them to function more independently in their home. Representatives from the building industry, local government, and health care and seniors' groups helped guide development of the proposed standards. The model standards, which local governments can choose to adopt through bylaw, would apply to new multi-unit residential buildings with single-storey suites.

The public can review and comment on the proposals online at [www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/publicreviewadaptableHousing.htm](http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/publicreviewadaptableHousing.htm). The deadline for commenting on the proposed standards is Sept. 22, 2008.

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