

The carrying of motion **SRD 650/25** and the announcement of the **September 10, 2025, construction kick-off** mark the definitive transition of the **Just Like Home Lodge** (also known as the "Home Away from Home" lodge) from a legislative concept into a physical infrastructure reality. This project serves as a cornerstone of your **"Forward"** platform, demonstrating your ability to initiate regional housing solutions that address the dual crises of patient support and shortages of medical professionals.

1. Technical Context: A Dual-Purpose Healthcare Asset

The Just Like Home Lodge, situated near the **Campbell River Hospital**, is a sophisticated healthcare facility designed to maximize regional benefits through shared infrastructure:

- **Patient & Family Support (Lower Floor):** Features **10 fully accessible communal units** for families traveling to the hospital for medical care, providing comfort and reducing the financial burden of out-of-town treatment.
- **Workforce Housing (Upper Floor):** Contains **20 units dedicated to medical personnel**, including medical students, traveling nurses, and substitute ("locum") doctors.
- **Operational Launch:** Following the September 2025 kick-off, the facility progressed rapidly; by April 2026, drone footage tracked framing completion, positioning the lodge for an official **September 2026 operational launch**.

2. Governance Dynamics: Proactive Leadership

The realization of this lodge is a primary exhibit of your **results-oriented leadership** and commitment to the **"Leadership and Collaboration"** principle of the Code of Conduct:

- **Initiating the Vision:** You initiated the board-level discussions that established the **Regional Housing Service**, providing the legal and financial framework required for this project to move forward.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** The project was developed through a partnership with the **Campbell River Hospital Foundation**, utilizing secured land with existing utilities to achieve significant economies of scale.
- **Using local businesses and local expertise:** The design contract went to **Studio Hub Architects** and the construction contract was awarded to **Broad Street Properties Limited**.

3. Fiscal Stewardship: Protecting the Project

Your focus on **fiscal accountability** ensured the project remained fully funded and on schedule:

- **Maximizing Resources:** You led the Board to reallocate **\$91,000 in unspent interest** from the Growing Communities Fund to finalize the lodge's interior amenities and durable finishes.
- **Professional Oversight:** By approving timely construction payments—such as the **\$483,689 invoice** authorized in April 2026—you prevented the "administrative red tape" and interest penalties that stalled other regional initiatives.