

**For immediate release**  
**September 16, 2019**

**ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FOR HOUSING NEED AND DEMAND STUDY KICKS  
OFF WITH WORKSHOPS AND SURVEY**

***Community workshops begin October 3; Survey open from October 3-21, 2019***

**Pemberton, BC** – The engagement process for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)'s housing need and demand study will launch in October, with several community workshops scheduled and a community survey open to all residents in the regional district.

Through the study, the SLRD hopes to gain a better understanding of the housing pressures facing rural areas of the regional district.

The engagement process, including community workshops, stakeholder interviews and an online survey, follows the background review and initial analysis of current and emerging needs, which took place in July and August.

At the upcoming community workshops, SLRD staff and consultants will be on hand to provide an overview of the planning process, highlight success stories from other regions and offer an opportunity for residents to share their insights into the priorities, challenges and opportunities for their areas.

The community workshop schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, October 3, 2019**

Britannia Mine Museum  
7-8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**

Gold Bridge Community Club  
10-11:30 a.m.

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**

Tyax Lodge  
2-3:30 p.m.

**Sunday, October 6, 2019**

Lillooet REC Centre  
2-3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

Pemberton & District Community Centre  
7-8:30 p.m.

The online survey will also launch October 3, 2019 and will be shared on the SLRD's website and Facebook.

The study, which will encompass all four SLRD electoral areas (housing needs in the District of Squamish, Resort Municipality of Whistler, Village of Pemberton and District of Lillooet fall within

the jurisdiction of each local government), will meet the new provincial requirements for housing needs reports that took effect in April 2019, requiring all local governments in B.C. to complete housing needs reports by April 2022 and every five years thereafter. Housing needs reports are a means for communities to better understand the current and future housing needs by identifying existing and projected gaps in housing supply.

The SLRD study will involve the collection and analysis of a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data to compile a detailed picture of local housing issues.

“We’re hoping to see a lot of people taking part in the workshops and completing the survey,” said SLRD Board Chair, Tony Rainbow. “This is an important project but ultimately, the report will be the most beneficial if we have significant input from the communities involved,” he said. “Our goal is to end up with an actionable report that will inform our regional planning in the future and in order to do this most effectively, we need to hear from residents about the priorities, challenges and opportunities facing each area.”

More information about the project can be found on the SLRD’s website:

<https://www.slrld.bc.ca/inside-slrld/current-projects-initiatives/slrld-housing-need-demand-study>

The study is funded through the Province of British Columbia’s Rural Dividend Fund and is being developed by Urban Matters. The SLRD gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

**Residents with questions can contact:**

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**About the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District**

Located in southwestern BC, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is a local government federation consisting of four member municipalities (the District of Lillooet, the District of Squamish, the Village of Pemberton and the Resort Municipality of Whistler) and four unincorporated, rural electoral areas (A, B, C, and D). Headquartered in Pemberton, which is the approximate geographic centre of the region, the SLRD delivers a wide range of local, regional and sub-regional services to approximately 42,665 residents (2016 Census).

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