

For immediate release
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SLRD HOUSING NEED AND DEMAND STUDY COMPLETE

Study highlights the need for creative and collaborative solutions to affordable housing across the region

Pemberton, BC – The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)’s first Housing Need and Demand Study is now complete after receiving SLRD Board approval at their meeting of January 29, 2020.

The Housing Need and Demand Study is a critical tool for understanding the housing pressures facing rural areas of the regional district. It also provides a framework for identifying opportunities for regional and cross-jurisdictional collaboration around housing issues.

The study, which encompasses 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), meets 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 study includes a series of key recommendations for addressing identified gaps in the housing continuum, which emerged both through quantitative data and qualitative community and stakeholder feedback.

Examples include, but are not limited to: supporting gentle and moderate density in appropriate areas, exploring the feasibility of a community land trust/non-profit housing authority model for the SLRD, and requiring a minimum of 15% of units in new developments to be affordable housing units.

The 15% affordable housing target has already been established in the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy, which was adopted in October 2019.

“The Housing Need and Demand Study provides us with a good foundation for future planning in the electoral areas,” said SLRD Board Chair, and Electoral Area D Director, Tony Rainbow.

“This is an important project that gives us a real-time perspective on the current housing situation within the rural areas of the SLRD,” he said. “It identifies the gaps and, with that knowledge, we can better plan for the future.”

More information about the project, and the final study 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 was funded through the Province of British Columbia’s Rural Dividend Program and was led 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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