



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

MEDIA RELEASE

September 17, 2020
For immediate release

Regional Housing Needs Assessment Completed by the RDCK

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and its partner communities – Creston, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson, New Denver, Salmo, Silverton, and Slocan - have recently completed a Housing Needs Assessment and are excited to share regional and local findings. Please join us for a **Community Webinar** held on **Thursday, September 24th, 2020 at 2:30pm – 4:00pm** or **Monday, September 28th at 6:00pm – 7:30pm**. Both events will be held remotely via the Zoom platform and are open to the public.

A Housing Needs Assessment is a report that describes current and anticipated housing needs in a community by collecting data, analyzing trends and speaking with community members. It is also a relatively recent requirement under the *Local Government Statutes (Housing Needs Reports) Amendment Act, 2018* which requires Local Governments to develop a Housing Needs Report every five years to better inform and understand the kind of housing most needed in their communities by identifying existing and projected gaps in housing supply.

“This housing needs assessment quantifies what many of us already know: housing in our communities is increasingly difficult to come by, especially for those that are already struggling to meet their needs,” said Aimee Watson, RDCK Board Chair and Director for Electoral Area D. “As elected representatives, we are motivated by the challenges this poses and are committed to addressing the issues outlined in the report.”

Funding to undertake this work was provided through a new grant program under the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The RDCK was one of eight Regional Districts in the Province to receive this funding. The City of Castlegar already completed a Housing Needs Assessment in 2018 and were ineligible for the grant – they contributed to this project in an advisory capacity.

If you would like to attend a webinar, view the completed reports, or find more information on this initiative please visit our website at www.rdck.ca/housing or contact the Project Manager, Dana Hawkins at (250) 352-8153 or by email at dhawkins@rdck.bc.ca

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit www.rdck.ca.

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