

Mount Waddington Regional Housing Needs Report Project

In 2018, the Province of British Columbia passed Bill 18 which requires each local government to collect data, analyze trends and prepare a report that identifies current and anticipated housing needs, for the purpose of considering these needs when creating policy and making decisions about development. Each local government has until April of 2022 to complete the initial housing needs report which must be updated every five years thereafter.

Through the housing needs report process, local governments will examine such things as:

- Population trends (Who is living in our communities? How fast is the population increasing?)
- Affordability (How much does it cost to live here?)
- Future demand (Who will live here in the future, where will they live and in what types of housing will they live?)

A funding program has been established by the Province to help communities meet these new legislative requirements. Due to the limited amount of funding available to each local government and the effort required to complete a housing needs report, the Regional District of Mount Waddington (RDMW) along with each of the four municipalities (District of Port Hardy, Town of Port McNeill, Village of Alert Bay and Village of Port Alice) have partnered together to apply for funding to undertake the project jointly. The RDMW, acting as project coordinator, submitted a joint funding application, and a grant in the amount of \$120,000 was approved to complete the housing needs project as part of one regional project. As a result, a project steering committee was established which includes members from all five partners, and the RDMW prepared a request for proposal (RFP) document in consultation with the committee, which was then used to seek submissions from qualified consultants as part of an RFP process. In this regard, a consultant will undertake the majority of the work associated with the project which will culminate with preparation of the Mount Waddington Regional Housing Needs Report. A selection process was undertaken by the steering committee and Urban Matters CCC Ltd. and M'akola Development Services have been chosen to undertake the project. They are currently undertaking phases 1 and 2 of the project which includes the following four phases:

- 1) Data Collection, Compilation & Analysis (January / February): Conduct background document review, collect and review available data, conduct need, demand and supply analyses of the spectrum of housing types, tenures and affordability, including market and non-market housing.
- 2) Community Consultation & Public Engagement (March / April): Prepare and implement a consultation and engagement strategy to achieve collaboration with a variety of stakeholders (local governments, First Nations, non-profit service providers, health authorities, post-secondary institutions, etc).
- 3) Needs Report Preparation (May / June): Preparation of the Mount Waddington Regional Housing Needs Report and community profiles for the eight planning areas (four municipalities and four electoral areas of the RDMW).
- 4) Capacity Building (June / July): Capacity building with local government staff on: a) implementation measures that are designed to satisfy housing needs; b) planning for subsequent housing needs updates in order to undertake future housing needs assessments and reports; and, c) connection with provincial housing entities and initiatives.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of November, 2020.

Housing matters in our communities

Make your voice heard and help us to build a more complete picture of the housing situation in your community by completing a questionnaire.

Prefer a paper copy of the questionnaire?
Watch your mailbox! Paper copies will be mailed to all those with a North Island postal address in the coming week.

Complete the questionnaire at:
m.sgizmoca.com/s3/Mount-Waddington-Housing

Together the Regional District of Mount Waddington, District of Port Hardy, Town of Port McNeill, Village of Alert Bay and Village of Port Alice are completing a Housing Needs Report to better understand housing challenges in the region. More information is available at www.rdmw.bc.ca



Please revisit this page for updated information which will be provided as the project unfolds.