

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



TO: Board of Directors

FROM: B. Newell, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 1, 2021

RE: 2021 Regional Housing Needs Assessment

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional District receive the “Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen 2021 Housing Needs Assessment”.

Purpose:

To receive the “Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen 2020 Housing Needs Assessment” to fulfill the requirements of the Local Government Act, Section 585.31.

Background:

On April 16, 2019, Bill 18 - 2018 came into effect, which amended the *Local Government Act* to require all local governments in B.C. to complete Housing Needs Reports by April 2022, and every five years thereafter.

On October 3, 2019, the Board of Directors resolved that the RDOS submit an application to the Province to initiate a Rural Housing Needs Report in 2020, with the City of Penticton, District of Summerland, and the Village of Keremeos as project partners.

On February 21, 2020 the RDOS received notice from the project grant in the amount of \$140,000 was approved. As per the grant application, \$130,000 was earmarked for consulting costs, and \$10,000 for the RDOS’s administrative costs.

On April 24, 2020, the Regional District posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) to complete the project, and on June 18, 2020, the Board awarded the contract to EcoPlan in the amount of \$116,827.

Between July, 2020 and March, 2021, EcoPlan undertook development of a Housing Needs Assessment for the region, which included in-depth data analysis, and stakeholder engagement with each of the project partners and housing-related organizations.

On February 24, 2021, a workshop was provided for Planning staff across the region, including City of Penticton, District of Summerland, Village of Keremeos, Town Princeton, Town Oliver, Town of Osoyoos, and RDOS staff to review the report and its findings.

The LGA (585.31) requires that each local government must receive the housing report by resolution at a meeting that is open to the public. Presently, each of the project partner’s municipal councils (Penticton, Summerland, Keremeos) have fulfilled this requirement.

Analysis:

The 2021 Regional Housing Needs Assessment fulfills all of the province’s requirements for housing needs reporting, as outlined in Division 22 of the *Local Government Act*.

The study provides a comprehensive overview of the current housing situation across the region, and estimates how this could evolve over next five years. It is not intended to provide solutions or strategic recommendations, but rather as a collection of important information for decision makers and developers to consider while undertaking future housing work across the region.

Going forward, the province requires consideration of housing needs reports during the development and review of Official Community Plans (OCPs) and Regional Growth Strategies. As such, as the Okanagan RGS and various OCPs are reviewed, policy consideration will be given to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment as housing-related policies are updated.

Alternatives:

- .1 THAT the Board, in accordance with *Local Government Act* Section 585.31(1), defer receiving the report titled “Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen 2021 Housing Needs Assessment”.
- .2 THAT the Board, in accordance with *Local Government Act* Section 585.31(1), not receive the report titled “Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen 2021 Housing Needs Assessment”.

Respectfully submitted



Cory Labrecque, Planner II

Endorsed by:



C. Garrish, Planning Manager