



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Rental housing demand is projected to increase by 21% over the next 25 years while achieving affordability continues to be a challenge in the Capital Region.

Victoria – There was an excellent turnout for the Affordable Housing Stakeholder Forum, “Affordable Housing for BC’s Capital Region: Tools for the Future,” today.

The forum was held at the Victoria Real Estate Board Office and co-sponsored by the Real Estate Foundation of BC, Victoria Real Estate Board, and the Capital Regional District. *“The research we did with municipalities across the region shows that there is growing awareness of the need for a spectrum of affordable housing options and that some municipalities are clearly articulating strategies to address this need.”* said Marika Albert, Research and Development Officer at the Community Social Planning Council, who presented highlights from the report. Following the presentation, there was a lively panel discussion with panelists, Kaye Melliship (Executive Director, Greater Victoria Non Profit Housing Society); Bill Patterson (Director, Urban Development Institute); and Matthew Baldwin (Director of Planning, City of Langford).

Heard in the room:

“This report is the most extensive work done in this region in terms of what local government has done in affordable housing.” Jim Bennett, Victoria Real Estate Board

Hedy Rubin, representative of Jack Wong, CEO, Real Estate Foundation, said, *“We commend the Community Social Planning Council for undertaking this important research and are proud to have funded it.”*

Bill Paterson from UDI board, says, *“Incentives work for builders, as opposed to increased fees or levies which ultimately adds to housing costs, in terms of creating changes in what is built and how.”*

“Having a clear understanding of the issues faced by our local stakeholders in creating affordable housing in the region is very critical to a well-informed sustainability strategy,” said, Marg Misesk-Evans, Senior Manager Regional and Strategic Planning, Capital Regional District.

Next steps. The report will now be circulated widely to the municipal, provincial and federal government offices as well as to all related stakeholders in the region.

To arrange interview, please contact: Mary Katharine Ross, Communications Officer

250-383-6166 ext 100 | 250-857-4309 | mk@communitycouncil.ca

CSPC Event Page: www.communitycouncil.eventbrite.ca | Tweets from the event: <http://sfy.co/fAd5>

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Community Social Planning Council leads social, economic and environmental planning in BC’s Capital Region. We engage community members and organizations, businesses and government to research and evaluate social issues and create sustainable solutions.

203-4475 VIEWMONT AVENUE VICTORIA, BC V8Z 6L8

www.CommunityCouncil.ca | Tel: 250-383-6166 | Fax: 250-479-9411 | admin@CommunityCouncil.ca

Twitter: @CSPC_Victoria | Facebook: CommunitySocialPlanningCouncilVictoria