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Brazeau County releases Housing Condition Index Report

Drayton Valley, Alberta, February 18, 2014 — Brazeau County has released a report that was prepared by Housing Strategies Inc. to address the issue of attainable, affordable and adequate housing in the region. The study was done in partnership with the Town of Drayton Valley.

“This report confirmed what we strongly suspected, and that is we have a problem to fix when it comes to the lack of affordable housing in our area. Now, we have a roadmap to guide us and I look forward to working with Council and our municipal partners to get housing development going in our region.” states Reeve Pat Vos.

Nineteen short term action items (1-3 years), fifteen medium term action items (3-5 years) and three long term (5-10 years) action items are contained within the following goals for affordable housing development in Drayton Valley/Brazeau County:

1. Make better use of existing affordable housing assets and resources.
2. Encourage the development of new affordable housing.
3. Build additional community capacity to promote affordable housing.
4. Help people help themselves.
5. Increase the supply of affordable housing for seasonal and temporary contract workers.
6. Increase the supply of affordable housing for modest incomes renters and first time home buyers.
7. Increase the supply of affordable housing for low income renters.
8. Increase the supply of affordable housing for seniors and person with special needs.

Some key actions for achieving the above goals include (but not limited to):

- Conducting a thorough review and inventory of existing land and building assets in each community to determine if and where each community has additional affordable housing development capacity available.
- Consider the development of a housing registry, working in partnership with local real estate professionals.
- Policy and bylaw review to permit the necessary types of housing in demand.
- Facilitating and/or supporting the creation of a Perpetually Affordable Housing Program.
- Consider the development of a housing authority and /or housing co-operative.
- Facilitating and/or supporting the development of grass-roots efforts and approaches to home maintenance, repairs and renovations.
- Facilitating and/or supporting the development of up to 165-180 units of affordable, 'entry-level' home ownership for modest-income renters and first time homebuyers over the next 5-10 years.
- Facilitating and/or supporting the development of up to 95-105 units of affordable rental housing for low income renters over the next 5-10 years.

Both Municipalities recognize that without an adequate supply of housing in the region, long term growth of our communities is severely hampered. From labour force development to business retention, lack of affordable housing is an underlying theme and the time is now to act. Brazeau County looks forward to getting to work on this issue.

To download a copy of the full report, visit the Brazeau County website at www.brazeau.ab.ca