



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ENABLING HOUSING CHOICE PROJECT IN PINCHER CREEK: LAND USE POLICY UPDATE REPORT TO HELP INCREASE HOUSING CHOICE FOR COMMUNITY

ALBERTA — Mar. 15, 2023 — On behalf of the Rural Development Network (RDN), the Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI), through its Enabling Housing Choice (EHC) Project, has partnered with the Town of Pincher Creek to perform a Land Use Policy Update Report that provides policy recommendations for increasing housing choice in the community.

One of the ways SHI supports diverse, sustainable, and equitable housing development in Albertan communities is through its EHC Project. This project is made possible through funding and support from the Alberta Real Estate Foundation. The overall goal of EHC is to drive transformational, long-term policy change that will benefit Alberta's real estate industry by addressing policy, bylaw and process barriers that realtors, housing developers, and municipalities often face when trying to improve housing choice.

The purpose of the Land Use Policy Update Report is to provide policy recommendations that promote housing choice and diversity, especially for the skilled workforce in the Town of Pincher Creek. These recommendations will be informed by extensive research and community engagement, to better understand how policy updates can best address Pincher Creek's housing needs.

"The Enabling Housing Choice project is a wonderful initiative that's working to improve housing diversity in various Albertan communities - and will eventually develop a Guidebook to serve as a resource for groups across the country," says Asad Bhatti, Director of Housing at RDN. "We are very excited to work with the Town of Pincher Creek on this project, and to help provide diverse housing options for the skilled workforce in their community".

"The Town of Pincher Creek is pleased to be working with RDN again," says Mayor Don Anderberg of the Town of Pincher Creek. "We look forward to a fresh perspective on our housing challenges and some recommendations that could be a fit specifically for Pincher Creek."

The overall goals for the Land Use Policy Update Report are:

- To identify policy recommendations that enable diverse housing development in Pincher Creek
- To meaningfully engage with community members to garner further support for housing choice in Pincher Creek.
- To increase housing options that serve the needs of Pincher Creek's skilled labour market.

For further information about the Enabling Housing Choice Project, please visit www.housingredefined.ca/enabling-housing-choice-project.

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ABOUT THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

RDN is a not-for-profit that facilitates, supports, and champions rural community development through collaboration, research, and service provision. RDN supports the sustainability of rural communities and works with communities to amplify the "rural voice". RDN collaborates to identify and bring focus to rural issues, build local capacity, and find innovative, rural-based solutions to unique issues.

To learn more about RDN, visit www.ruraldevelopment.ca.

ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

In 2015, RDN created the Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) in direct response to rural communities expressing their need for support in addressing the critical lack of affordable housing. This issue has not received the same attention and resources as it has in urban centres, and comes with unique challenges requiring unique solutions. The SHI conducts research, data analysis, produces housing needs assessments, business plans, financial analyses and more. This lays the groundwork necessary for projects to access funding from governments, banks, and other sources, which is often the biggest hurdle to overcome.

To learn more about SHI, visit www.housingredefined.ca.

ABOUT THE ALBERTA REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION

The Alberta Real Estate Foundation (AREF) was established in 1991 to advance the real estate industry and strengthen Alberta's communities. Created under the Real Estate Act after years of discussion between industry leaders and officials in the provincial government, the Foundation started making an impact right away by funding initiatives to help educate and train real estate professionals. AREF invests in real estate policy, research, practices, and education that strengthen Alberta's communities.

To learn more about AREF, visit <https://aref.ab.ca/>.