

Regional Housing Affordability Strategy

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Notes on The Role of the Housing Affordability Partnership

Background Rationale

To be implemented effectively the Housing Affordability Strategy has to be sustainable, community based and practical.

HAP is a multi-sectoral, non-partisan body representing private, public and non-profit housing interests and expertise. In addition, its representation cuts across all levels of government. The strength of HAP is its objectivity and ability to communicate across the range of housing interests. It is a credible entity within the community.

HAP is in the early stages of working on a number of initiatives that include planning and seeking funding for a variety of projects.

There is the opportunity for HAP as a community based entity to offer continuity through the preparation of the Housing Affordability Strategy and be integral in its implementation, as an advisory and facilitatory body. This fits with the trend to building capacity within the community, and leveraging resources collectively for housing initiatives given the constraints on government funding. In particular it is in keeping with the BC Government policy direction of pursuing projects that leverage funding through partnerships to replace grant programs. (Note: this should be pursued further in consultation with the MCAWS)

Defining HAP's Role

Definition of the role needs to be done in consultation with HAP.

Suggested evolutionary stages so that the role grows with HAP, include the following:

- initially, it builds on the recognized strengths of HAP – facilitator, catalyst, champion;
- HAP's non-partisan nature means it is seen as neutral in events and forums across the Region, there is an opportunity to highlight the issues that HAS will cover, there are some critical choices that have to be made regionally and HAS is providing the decision-making framework;
- its ability to act as a sounding board through its communication network with stakeholders across the community, including electronically through its Web Site;
- its role in building community capacity would support the definition and consolidation of HAP's governance structure, giving it a context; and,
- the integration of HAP's role into the strategy would be staged to its development and be realistic (as a voluntary body HAP has limited resources at this point), the

ultimate goal would be an integrated role in the sustainability of the Housing Affordability Strategy including reviews, monitoring and evaluation.

Role Descriptors

Facilitator

Advocate

Champion

Capacity Building

Sustainability