

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
**Regional Planning Services Department**

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee  
Meeting of Wednesday, September 17, 2003

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**SUBJECT:**

Housing Fund Report - Update

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 16, 2003, the Final Consultants Report on the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy was presented to the Regional Planning Committee, who recommended to the Board that it be released for municipal and stakeholder review and comment.

During the preparation of the RHAS, there has been discussion and reaction in the media and elsewhere about a 'Housing Levy', presumably being one of the recommendations for the RHAS. This misconception arose because of the incomplete information available at the time. As a result of discussion of the key recommendations by the project partners and RPC, a contract for the preparation of a report and business case for a Housing Fund was let to explore this subject in more depth.

The Chair of the CRD Board has requested that the RHAS and the Housing Fund report be distributed together.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Final Consultants Report does recommend a Housing *Fund* as one of four key actions, but a levy is only one of several ways of funding it. To avoid misunderstanding of this recommendation, and to give municipalities more information on the options for the structure, operation, oversight, funding and uses of a Fund, the RHAS Project Management Team contracted with Urban Aspects Consulting for a report specifically on this subject. The report is intended to be sent with the Final Consultants Report to the member municipalities, other partners, and stakeholders to inform their discussions and to present a business case for a Fund.

Unfortunately the Urban Aspects associate preparing the Fund report is seriously ill and is unable to finalize it. We have arranged that his associates to do so as soon as possible. Given their knowledge of the background reports, the region, and housing research in general, it was thought they would be the best contractors to do the work.

The Board was asked on Sept. 10 to authorize the circulation of the Final Consultants Report, on the understanding that it will not be distributed until the Housing Fund Report can also be sent. In the interim, the first report can be printed and preparations for mailing made. The Housing Fund Report will be forwarded to the Board before its distribution.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Regional Planning Committee receive this report as information.

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Chris Goldburn, MCIP  
Manager, RPS Information Services

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Mark Hornell, MCIP  
Director, Regional Planning Services

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

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W.M. Jordan, Executive Director

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