



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ENABLING HOUSING CHOICE PROJECT IN MAYERTHORPE: RESEARCH REPORT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY WITH ATTRACTING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

ALBERTA - March 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 Mayerthorpe to perform a Research Report that provides recommendations on how to attract and support development 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 Research Report On Attracting Housing Development aims to provide recommendations on how to support development in the community while understanding the barriers and roadblocks that developers currently face in Mayerthorpe. These recommendations will be informed by extensive research and development industry consultations, to better understand how these recommendations can best address Mayerthorpe's housing development 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 Mayerthorpe on this project and to better understand the needs of the development industry to further promote housing development in the community."

"The Town of Mayerthorpe has felt the impact of a lack of affordable housing within our community. The dearth of rental units is especially problematic. We're thrilled to partner with the Sustainable Housing Initiative for the Enabling Housing Choice Project," says Mayor Janet Jabush of the Town of Mayerthorpe. "Collaborative stakeholder engagement will enable both short- and long-term planning and ensure the correct type of housing is built in adequate supply. The expertise the Rural Development Network brings to this partnership is invaluable and the Town is looking forward to working with all stakeholders in the development of viable solutions."

The overall goals for the Research Report on Attracting Housing Development are:

- To identify areas of opportunity to attract and support housing development in

Mayerthorpe.

- To consult with development industry professionals to identify roadblocks, challenges or barriers to housing development in Mayerthorpe.

For further information about the Enabling Housing Choice Project, please visit:

www.housingredefined.ca/enabling-housing-choice-project

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For more information, please contact:

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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 and data analysis and 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/>.