

Memo



To: Regular Meeting
From: **Recovery Manager**
Date: 2019-04-23
Subject: Housing Recovery

Background

The Housing Branch is focusing on a six-month effort to support residents to move in to some form of permanent housing before winter 2019. The vision is “All Grand Forks / RDKB residents affected by May 2018 flooding will have options for safe, permanent housing suitable to their basic needs by October 1, 2019, supported by multiple agencies.”

The branch is working with multiple organizations and agencies to support this vision:

- Mennonite Disaster Services Canada (MDS) has opened a fund (BC Floods 2018) to receive donations wholly for client material costs and has committed to support at least 8-10 major repairs this summer.
- Discussions are underway with Canadian Red Cross to fund a housing facilitator to inform individual decisions about home repair, rebuilding, elevation or moving for flood-affected households. If funded, an experienced contractor would work directly with the Grand Forks Building Official and liaise with recovery case managers as a resource person to help individuals assess repair and rebuild needs and navigate the building process.
- In order to increase efficiencies in addressing housing recovery and appropriate and sustainable coordination and service delivery over the long term, the City of Grand Forks, RDKB and not-for-profits involved in housing are interested in the development of a backbone or umbrella organization that would engage and support all housing not-profits. Urban Matters has already donated \$40,000 for the effort and Housing Recovery Team Lead has applied to Canadian Red Cross and other funders obtain the rest of the funding for a coordinator position and supplementary consulting.
- BC Housing's 52-unit affordable rental project is under construction and is scheduled to be open late summer, and 2nd St housing is on the development track as well. Flood-affected households qualifying for the

rent subsidy and/or supports will be connected with BC Housing's intake process through case managers.

- Private developments currently underway that may be ready in 2019 or 2020 include:
 - 5 units on 75th Avenue near Hutton as attainable market ownership, spring 2019
 - 25 units manufactured home park on Boundary Drive, summer 2019 pending completion of permitting and engineering
 - 6 small strata homes near downtown, pending rezoning
 - 10+ single family homes in west Grand Forks, pending servicing

Recovery Operations is in regular contact with Development and Engineering Services to have a current understanding of these or other emerging developments, and supports Council in all measures to use available funding as 'reinvestment' that helps keep people in the community.

The Recovery Manager will provide a presentation with current housing data and a status update on funding initiatives.
