From: Charlotte Tavenor
To: Charlotte Tavenor
Subject: FW: NS Housing Needs Assessment
Date: June 6, 2022 11:59:01 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: "MacIntyre, Jennifer" <Jennifer.MacIntyre@novascotia.ca>
Date: June 6, 2022 at 10:17:54 ADT
To: "MacIntyre, Jennifer" <Jennifer.MacIntyre@novascotia.ca>
Cc: "Awoyiga, Babatunde" <Babatunde.Awoyiga@novascotia.ca>, Ryan MacLean <ryan@uplandstudio.ca>, Housing Needs Assessment <housingneedsassessment@novascotia.ca>, Juanita Spencer <jspencer@nsfm.ca>, Janice Wentzell <jwentzell@amans.ca>
Subject: NS Housing Needs Assessment

Hello,

I am writing to you today to invite you to participate in the Nova Scotia Housing Needs Assessment, one of the recommendations from the Affordable Housing Commission Report.

Nova Scotia is in the midst of a housing crisis. Government is committed to solutions, and we need data and information to help guide future housing policy, programs, and initiatives. A comprehensive needs assessment will identify gaps in current and projected housing requirements and ensure future investments are designed to close those gaps. The needs assessment will provide data and information on current and projected housing needs for each of the 49 municipalities in Nova Scotia and will be updated over time. It will indicate the number and type of housing needed in communities across the province to meet demand now and in the future.

The information gathered may be used by all levels of government, private sector, and community housing partners to make evidence-informed decisions about investments in housing. It is expected that the assessment will be complete by February 2023

Throughout the project there will be many opportunities for the public, communities, businesses, universities and colleges, municipalities, and other groups to provide input into the needs assessment. Using qualitative data, in addition to data-based information, is critical to understanding many local issues and needs. Engaging with a wide breadth of stakeholders will help address gaps in national data and better understand their perspective. Two of these opportunities for engagement directly relate to municipalities and are outlined below:

Municipal Engagement Sessions
Early this summer we will begin reaching out to coordinate 49 engagement sessions, one with each municipality in the province. The sessions will focus on understanding the key issues related to housing in each municipality. The sessions will take place in September and October and are expected to be 90 -120 minutes in length. We are inviting the CAO, key municipal staff members (at the CAO's discretion), as well as members of council to participate in the session.

We recognize that staff and council members have a strong understanding of the challenges faced by their constituents and can provide valuable insight on what they're hearing from the community. These sessions are intended to collect on-the-ground insights and experiences, as well as allow for discussion of complex and nuanced matters. We will also be separately reaching out to municipalities over the coming months, directly or via NSFM, as part of our efforts to collect existing municipal data sets (e.g. building permit data) for use in the analytical parts of this project.

Public Survey
Early this summer we will be launching a public survey which will be our primary tool for engaging directly with the general public. We will promote the survey throughout its duration, from early summer to early fall, and with your support the survey will be able to reach far and wide. We will be in touch again once the survey is ready for distribution and will provide promotional content to share via your communications channels. The survey will be available both online and in paper-copy at local libraries.

The consultant team leading this work is made up of members from Turner Drake & Partners, UPLAND Planning & Design, COLAB, and Mountain Math.

For questions about the Housing Needs Assessment and methodology, please contact:

Project Manager - Tunde Awoyiga, Province of Nova Scotia, Director of Housing Programs. Babatunde.Awoyiga@novascotia.ca

For questions relating to engagement for this project please contact Engagement Manager, Ryan MacLean. Ryan@uplandstudio.ca.

Thanks for your time and support. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Sent on behalf of
Babatunde Awoyiga

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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We are in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

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