

# ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

The City of Castlegar is developing a Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy will provide direction on how to address the housing needs of the community to ensure safe, affordable, and appropriate housing is made available to all residents of Castlegar. Community members and key actors were invited to share their experiences, ideas, and priorities for the future. The following provides an overview of what we heard. For further details, read the full Engagement Summary at [www.castlegar.ca/HousingStrategy](http://www.castlegar.ca/HousingStrategy).



**344**

Online surveys completed



**28**

Participants in three virtual workshops



**3**

Meetings with the Housing Advisory Committee



**15**

Interviews with organizations + people with lived experience

VISION:

**Respondents want a future with affordable homes for all.**



## OUR TOP TAKEAWAYS: A few core ideas summarized from all the feedback received...

- **There is a housing shortage across many different types of housing.** There is a severe lack of adequate and affordable housing in Castlegar for low-income residents, students, seniors, people with disabilities, and people experiencing mental health challenges. The rental market is in dire straits, and there is a lack of “starter homes” to buy.
- **Many people, especially renters, are experiencing housing instability.**
- **There is a need for greater supply and diversity of housing.** There is high support for low-rise, multi-unit buildings, townhomes, laneway homes, and small detached homes.
- **There is a need for greater coordination, resources, and leadership.**
- **It can be difficult to develop housing.** Enabling greater housing diversity and finding creative solutions to lower development barriers for different types of housing will be key.
- **There is significant stigma and discrimination,** specifically with communities experiencing poverty, mental health issues, and racism. There is a misconception that the emergency shelter and other services draw people from other communities, and that all renters cause damage to housing.
- **Housing isn't just about shelter.** Housing is key to stability, wellness, and mental health. Location and transportation are key factors in appropriate housing so people can access amenities and services.