

Closing the Loop

How engagement shaped the Housing Strategy

The Castlegar Housing Strategy identifies actions across the housing wheel to meet the housing needs of all current and anticipated future residents of the City. The Strategy was developed between October 2020 to July 2021 and in close collaboration with Castlegar staff and the Housing Advisory Committee. It was also informed by engagement with key actors representing different segments of the housing wheel and a community-wide survey.

This two-pager shares how our key takeaways from engagement shaped strategies and actions in the Housing Strategy.

Guiding Principles

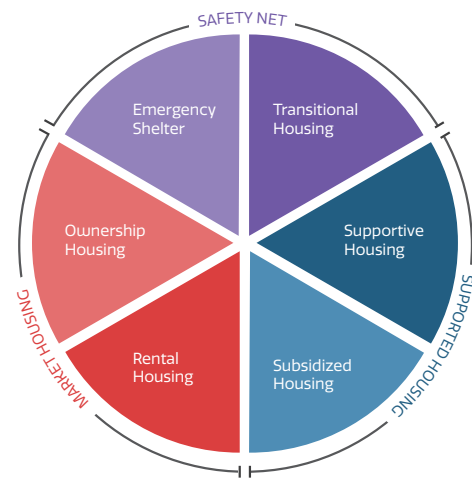
Housing as a fundamental human right

This Strategy considers housing that is dignified, accessible, attainable, and appropriate shelter as a basic human right. Diverse options across the housing spectrum – including supportive, rental, and ownership options – are key to providing adequate housing for all.

Furthering this idea of housing as a human right, we want to acknowledge that housing is also the basic building block for wellness for everyone. Having a secure place to live makes us feel safe and also makes us feel connected to community. Housing is the cornerstone upon which we build our quality of life.

A systems approach

The Strategy recognizes that housing is a complex system. The Strategy works to address housing needs across the housing wheel, and recognizes that all segments of the housing wheel are important components of the housing system. An increase in affordable and dignified homes in one segment of the housing wheel will often have positive impacts across the entire housing system.



The Housing Wheel

Key Takeaways + The Strategy

This section shows the seven key takeaways from engagement conversations and activities, where they are reflected in the Housing Strategy, and includes specific strategies and a summary of actions.

1. There is a shortage of housing across many different types of housing.

2. There is need for a greater supply and diversity of housing.

Actions summary:

- update the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw to enable more variety in housing type and tenure
- ensure no net loss of existing rental
- protect manufactured home parks
- regularly update the strategy to respond to changing needs

3. Many people, especially renters are experiencing housing instability.

Actions summary:

- consider using rental zoning
- monitor empty homes and short term rentals
- help people stay in housing
- develop new housing through partnerships
- create a housing hub to direct people to resources, help them find housing that meets their needs, or stay in their current housing
- partner to address the need for a housing facility for residents with dementia and Alzheimer's

4. There is a need for greater coordination, resources and leadership.

Actions summary:

- advocate to senior levels of government for more funding for housing
- work regionally on housing issues
- partner to provide emergency shelter and meet transitional housing needs
- use the municipal land inventory to identify properties suitable for housing

**STRATEGY 1:
CREATE THE
CONDITIONS
TO SUPPORT
HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT
AND REMOVE
BARRIERS**

**STRATEGY 2:
EMBED
WELLNESS IN
HOUSING**

**STRATEGY 3:
MUNICIPAL
LEADERSHIP**

**STRATEGY 4:
INNOVATION**

**STRATEGY 5:
MONITORING
AND
EVALUATION**

5. There is significant stigma and discrimination.

Actions summary:

- work with service providers to locate emergency shelter and transitional housing near amenities and transit
- support harm reduction programs
- create public education campaigns to address stigma
- address the criminalization of homelessness

6. Housing isn't just about shelter.

Actions summary:

- provide supports to help keep people in housing
- support a regional addictions treatment centre
- locate lower-income housing near amenities and transit

7. It can be difficult to develop housing.

Actions summary:

- incentivize rental housing
- leverage municipal land suitable for housing to get funding from BC Housing and CMHC
- explore innovative solutions like housing swaps
- update housing targets based on need