# HALIFAX

# Affordable Housing Initiatives in HRM

HRM Women's Advisory Committee Jill MacLellan, HRM, Planner III

## **Core Housing Need**

- no more than 30% of income is spent on housing.
- housing meets minimum occupancy standards
- housing meets the needs of the household
- Approximately 25% of households in Halifax spend more than 30% of income on housing
  - Increases to 43.3% renters



## **Vacancy Rate**

#### THE OVERALL VACANCY RATE

Increased to

1.9%

The average rent is

\$1,170 UP by 4.1%

PRIMARY RENTAL MARKET (by bedroom type)			
Bachelor 1.8%	One bedroom	Two bedroom	Three or more bedrooms
Vacancy Rate	Vacancy Rate	Vacancy Rate	Vacancy Rate
\$865 Avg. Rent	\$1,016 Avg. Rent	\$1,255 Avg. Rent	\$1,455 Avg. Rent



## **Housing Continuum**







#### Land Use Regulations

- Centre Plan and Land Use By-law Simplification
- Removing Barriers to Housing Forms
  - Secondary and Backyard Suites approved Sept 2020
  - Shared Housing
  - Tiny Homes clustered tiny homes developments



#### Land Use Regulations

- Residential Rental Registration
  - Expand application M-200 By-law
- Short Term Rentals



#### Incentive or Bonus Zoning

- Centre Plan Package A requires a minimum of 60% of public benefit to be provided as cash-in-lieu for affordable housing
- Cash-in-lieu for affordable housing will be allocated through a new affordable housing grant program.



#### Financial Support

- Affordable Housing Grant Program
- Waiver of Municipal Related Construction Fees
- Tax Relief for Non-Profits
- Report exploring further initiatives to support affordable housing is forthcoming.



#### **Surplus Land**

- Surplus Land Category for Affordable Housing
- Report exploring approaches to municipal surplus land forth coming.



#### **Municipality**

**Land Use Regulations** 

Incentive or Bonus Zoning

Non-Profit Financial Support

**Surplus Land** 

Research and Policy **Development** 

#### **Province**

Public/Social Housing

Financial Support -**Operating Costs** 

**Powers Granted to** the Municipality

Financial Support -**Capital Projects** 

**Surplus Land** 

#### Federal Gov't / CMHC

**National Housing** Strategy

Incentives for First **Time Home Owners** 

Financial Support – Seed Funding

Financial Support -**Capital Projects** 

Advocacy/Support



#### **H**ALIFAX



















# https://housingandhomelessness.ca/

#### HALIFAX HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Final Report

2015



#### FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

2015 2020

2017 - 2022

Affordable Housing Working Group



Revised: November 13, 2015

# **Rapid Housing Initiative**



Adsum for Women and Children - 158 Greenhead Road, Lakeside

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Support for National Housing Strategy Projects



# **Housing Task Forces/Identify Gaps**

#### NOVA SCOTIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION

Nova Scotia creates protections for renters, more beds for homeless amid COVID-19

The protections for renters will be in place until Feb. 1, 2022, or until the state of emergency is lifted, whichever is sooner.



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# **Thank You**

Jill MacLellan

Phone: 902-717-3167

Email: maclelj@halifax.ca