



# Westwinds Communities

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Westwinds Communities Celebrates 60th Anniversary

**High River, AB:** Westwinds Communities, formerly known as the Foothills Foundation, is proudly celebrating their 60th anniversary as the leading provider of affordable housing within the Foothills Region.

*“Our roots in the community are broad and deep,”* says Lauren Ingalls, Chief Administrative Officer, Westwinds Communities. *“Our communities – volunteers, employees, Board Members and municipalities who saw the need for the critical services we provide, have been lifting and supporting Westwinds since 1960. We are thrilled to celebrate what they started, and the continuation and growth of their vision throughout the upcoming year.”*

Westwinds Communities will share the stories of their humble beginnings and evolving outreach and involvement in the community through social media and celebrations throughout the year. *“The celebration isn’t just about Westwinds,”* says Lauren Ingalls, *“It’s about the seniors, individuals and families, and the communities we serve. This year is about celebration and education, as our year will cumulate with two events - our June Seniors Week Barbecue at Sandstone Lodge in Okotoks and to continue developing upon the building blocks of our roots – an event recognizing National Housing Day in November.”*

Since 1960, Westwinds has been the region’s primary provider of affordable housing for seniors, families and individuals. Today, Westwinds operates three seniors’ supportive living lodges, seven seniors’ independent living communities, the Foothill’s largest subsidized and affordable rental housing programs.

The substantial growth in Foothills region and its communities means the need for affordable housing has also increased. Westwinds provides a vital role in forecasting and developing plans to meet the future needs of the communities they serve.

In early January, Westwinds Communities, in partnership with the Town of Okotoks, announced the purchase of approximately 3.3 acres in the D’Arcy neighbourhood for affordable housing, aligning with one of the priorities set by the Town of Okotoks Councils’ Strategic Plan to increase affordable housing options in the community. Westwinds is proposing to build a 60-unit facility with 45 units allocated as affordable housing and 15 units as market housing.

Westwinds Communities is committed to engaging the community in this important development. Opportunities will be shared through local media, and community members are invited to contact Westwinds Communities at any time.

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