

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING PANEL REVIEW

December 30, 2020

At Westwinds Communities, we seek to be proactive - forecasting and developing plans to meet the future needs of the communities we serve. We conduct research to identify emerging needs and changing lifestyles of residents, and actively work to develop solutions — from delivering programs and services in new ways to exploring partnership opportunities.

Lauren Ingalls, Chief Administrative Officer with Westwinds Communities, was invited to join Alberta's Affordable Housing Review panel in July 2020. The expert panel was appointed to review Alberta's affordable housing system and explored ways to improve affordable housing.

In July to August 2020, the panel sought the perspectives of stakeholder organizations representing groups most in need of affordable housing, including housing providers, private companies and civil society organizations.

The Panel used feedback from participants to create the Final Report of the Affordable Housing Review Panel, provided to the Minister of Seniors and Housing on October 5, 2020. The report provides recommendations around how to transform Alberta's affordable housing system in a financially stable way, while addressing growing demand.

Some of the recommendations found within the report are:

- Develop a provincial strategic plan for housing
- Create a plan to manage and transfer provincially owned land and buildings
- Build capacity of housing providers
- Provide a rent subsidy for Albertans who need temporary support but are not eligible for existing programs
- Simplify how income is calculated for affordable housing programs
- Support innovative approaches to housing such as mixed-income, mixed-use, tiny homes and secondary suites
- Encourage municipalities to develop local affordable housing plans
- Update regulations and streamline planning and approval processes for capital projects
- Simplify processes for applicants, tenants and housing operators

The Panel's recommendations focused on:

- Shifting Government's role from owner and controller to partner and funder
- Changing programs to support Albertans not buildings
- Drawing on local and private sector expertise to provide more housing options
- Updating regulations to encourage innovation and reduce administrative red tape

For more information on the Affordable Housing Review Panel, click [here](#).

[Affordable Housing Review Panel | Alberta.ca](#)