

Rapid Housing Initiative Community Information Session

Welcome! Thank you for joining us



Agenda

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
2. Introductory Remarks
3. Presentation
4. Q+A period
5. Wrap-up and Next Steps

How to ask questions?

- Use the “raise hand” function at the top of the screen or type your question directly into the chat box.
- Once prompted by facilitator, click the unmute button at the top right.

Meeting chat

Today

Type a new message

Rapid Housing Initiative

Background on Regina's RHI project

January 5, 2022



Contents

1. Local Context - Homelessness
2. Information about the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)
3. Regina's RHI Project
4. Next Steps

Local Context

Official Community Plan Key Community Priority:

Support the availability of diverse housing options city-wide to ensure people from all walks and stages of life are welcomed to live in Regina

OCP policies

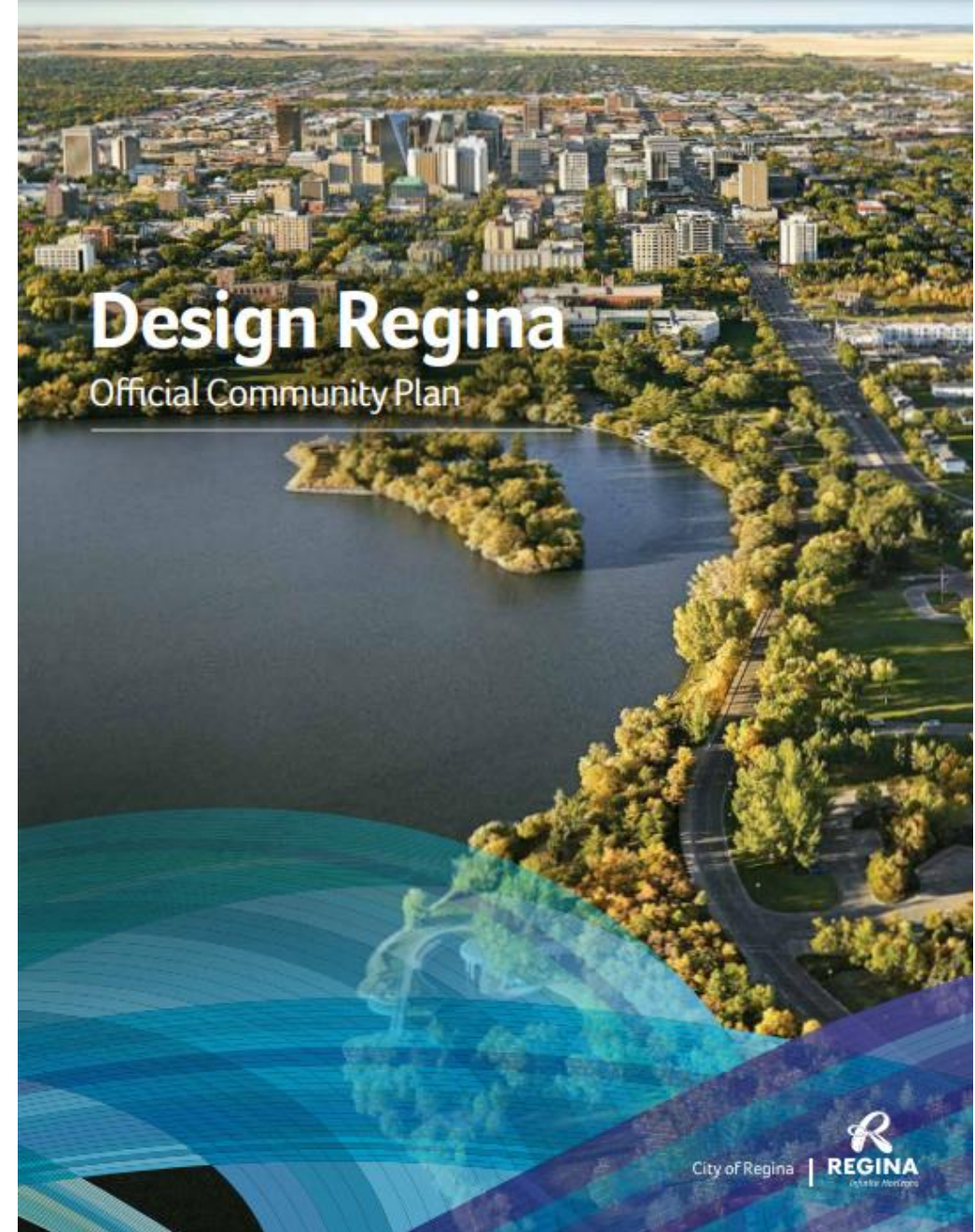
Support affordable housing, attainable housing and below market housing in all neighbourhoods through ownership, rental housing and specific needs housing.

Work with federal and provincial governments and other partners to meet the diverse housing needs of the city through:

- *increased access to specific needs housing for the most vulnerable populations.*
- *alignment of City initiatives with provincial and federal funding sources.*

Comprehensive Housing Strategy Guiding Principle:

Helping people who are homeless, or at-risk of homelessness, to quickly access safe, affordable, and stable housing



Local Context

Plan to End Homelessness (2019)

- Regina has a large number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.
- P2EH identified lack of supportive housing as a major barrier to making progress on Regina's homelessness numbers.

2021 Homelessness Point-in-Time Count

- 488 individuals experiencing homelessness (Sept 22, 2021)
- Highlights the overwhelming need for affordable and supportive housing.

Permanent Supportive Housing Operating Grant

- In spring 2021, City Council approved the creation of a \$1 million annual PSH Operating Grant program to address this gap.



Background – Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)

Federal program to support the creation of new affordable housing units across Canada for people and populations who are vulnerable.

Second round of funding (2021) included predetermined funding allocations for 30 cities across Canada, including Regina.

Cities were invited to submit a proposal for the RHI by end August 2021.

Significant federal investment to address an important issue in our community



Background - RHI

Regina was allocated \$7.75M in capital funding to build a minimum of 29 affordable housing units.

- Funding is for capital costs and cannot be used to support operational expenses
- Units must be maintained as affordable for 20 years
- 25% of units are to be targeted to women or women and their children
- 15% of units are encouraged to be for Indigenous residents
- City is encouraged to work with Indigenous-led organizations

City can work with a non-profit intermediary, but remains the signatory to all agreements with CMHC



Regina's RHI Project

Submission to CMHC

- New modular construction building
- Permanent supportive housing development to serve individuals experiencing chronic homelessness
- Minimum 29 units with wrap-around support services provided by a non-profit housing operator based on individual case management plans

Provincial Funding Support

- Council-approved receiving Provincial funding commitment of \$783,000 in the form of a 10-year forgivable loan



Modular affordable housing examples: Durham Region (top) Saskatoon (bottom)

What is Transitional / Supportive Housing?

- It is longer term housing that is distinct from emergency shelters, drop-ins and other forms of temporary accommodation.
- Residents have chosen to exit homelessness and are taking steps towards healing and community integration.
- Assists those who are ready for successful transition from the shelter system.
- Supportive housing provides safety and stability and allows people to positively contribute to communities.
- Individuals successfully housed in permanent supportive housing with wrap-around support services no longer access emergency shelters and other related services.

The goal is to assist residents with developing independence and focus on community integration.



Modular affordable housing example: Vancouver

RHI Project Operations

Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services (RT/SIS) and Silver Sage Holdings (SSH) were selected for the City's Permanent Supportive Housing Operating Grant

- Two well-respected local Indigenous organizations
- Proven track record with providing safe, secure, affordable housing and support services
- Experience supporting individuals who are transitioning to permanent housing
- Have strong community relationships

Opportunity to strengthen the community response to homelessness

- Broaden our capacity as a city to address chronic homelessness
- Protect client choice and self determination



Modular affordable housing examples: Toronto

Residents living in supportive housing

- Residents will have experienced barriers however they may not be addictions or mental health. It may be inaccessible housing such as low paying jobs, unpaid training or skill development and education.
- Residents will have opportunity for family reunification with independent living as the goal.
- Residents will have been working with RT/SIS for 6-12 months prior to moving into the building to ensure they are able to successfully live in their own unit with support provided on-site.
- Residents will not have any sexual charges or convictions and will not be Dangerous Offenders.
- Residents will have to maintain open case management files with RT/SIS to maintain their residency.

Our goal is that everyone feels safe, welcome and included in their community.



Modular affordable housing example: Vancouver

Support Services

Project will include multiple housing units with support services provided on-site (typical model for supportive housing projects)

- Allows residents better access to supports
- Allows service provider to better serve residents
- Allows residents to build relationships and create a community of healing

The support services will be tailored to the residents based on their individual needs.

The residents stay as long as they need to be able to transition to more independent living (e.g., 3-5 years).



Healthy living – meal preparation, nutrition, personal care, etc.



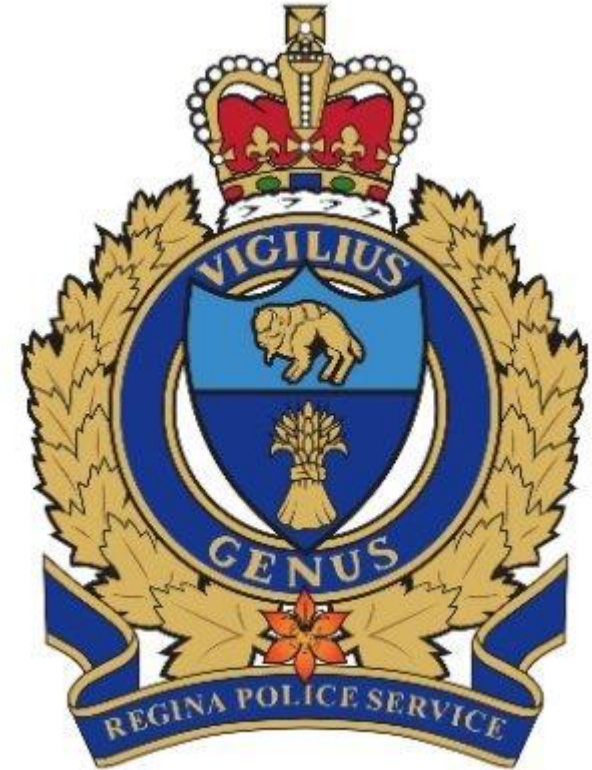
Social Inclusion – counselling, life skill training, access to programs and services, etc.



Cultural – access to healing spaces, traditional medicines, traditional learning opportunities with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, etc.

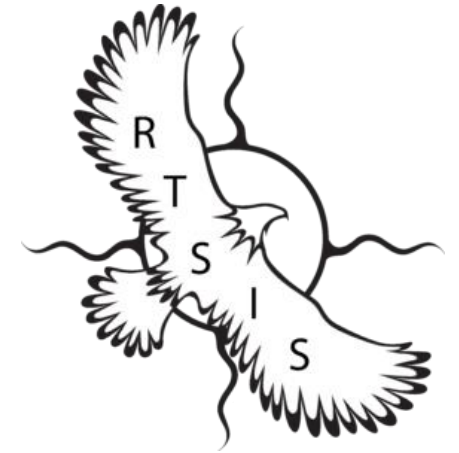
Safety

- Regina Police Service has strong relationships with both the City of Regina and RT/SIS.
- Regina Police Service continues to be an active partner in community safety and well-being.
- Supportive housing is critical to creating safe communities and improving safety and security for the building residents.
 - Previous evaluation of Housing First programming conducted in Regina has shown reductions in calls for service and interactions with police



Operational Funding and Partnership

- The City is committed to addressing homelessness and the need for affordable and supportive housing
- RHI is an opportunity to align federal capital funding with the City's commitment to permanent supportive housing (PSH operating grant)
- The City is committed to a strong partnership with RT/SIS and SSH to ensure the project is successful.



RHI Site Selection

A comprehensive city-wide search for a location began in July 2021

More than 20 sites were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Size and configuration of the site
- Appropriate zoning
- Condition of the land (i.e., site contamination)
- Local infrastructure (servicing capacity)
- Access to public transit
- Access to amenities and services



RHI Project Location



Affordable and Supportive Housing and Complete Communities

Supportive housing is part of complete communities.

- BC Housing Research Centre notes that 210 provincially-funded projects in BC are located within 500m of a school. Many have been operating in their communities and near schools without issue for 10+ years.
- Edmonton is committed to delivering 900 supportive housing units by 2024. They recently approved multiple PSH developments, including in neighbourhoods near community centres and schools.
- Saskatoon's RHI projects are both located in Pleasant Hill Village, near an elementary school and seniors housing.
- Numerous local affordable and social housing projects in Regina are located near schools and community centres.



Renderings of permanent supportive housing developments approved in Edmonton

RHI anticipated timeline



How to ask questions?

- Use the “raise hand” function at the top of the screen or type your question directly into the chat box.
- Once prompted by facilitator, click the unmute button at the top right.

Meeting chat

Today

Type a new message

Commitments to the Community

Staff will circulate a consolidated Q+A document following the meeting

Staff will provide on-going updates as the project progresses

Additional community conversations around project capital planning and opportunities to ensure successful community integration