

INFORMATION NOTE

Title: Housing Week

Date Prepared: 17/09/2019

Report To: Affordable Housing Working Group (AHWG)

Issue: Planning for November 18th- Nov 22nd

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Planning is underway for the 2019 Affordable Housing Forum. This year additional events are being planned for the full week of the forum.

The following are the draft events being planned

St. John's Housing Week- Draft Public Events

Together. Towards Home.

November 18th

4:30pm

National Housing Day Proclamation at City Council Meeting

November 19th

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Film Screening

Event to include meet and greet, film screening and panel discussion

Film screening of "Push", a documentary film that follows Leilani Farha, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing and Executive Director of Canada Without Poverty.

We will host this film screening to draw attention to the growing global housing crisis and to encourage thought and discussion about how the film relates to issues we are concerned about in St. John's. 'Push' documentary explores how housing prices are skyrocketing in cities around the world and incomes aren't keeping up. Although our municipality's context looks less severe, and we are not experiencing the financialization of housing, affordability and security of tenure are real challenges in St. John's. Currently, 1 in 4 are not living affordably.

This film will be used as a tool to discuss our own unique context following the screening. We hope that the evening's discussion will emphasize that

Affordable Housing is:

- a foundation for a safe, prosperous and healthy community;
- a vital part of the infrastructure of our City;
- a human right
- a key pathway out of poverty;
- a sound public investment that contributes to resident well-being and the economy.

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Infographic handouts will be available on the current CSJ housing context – snapshot of what housing need looks like in St John's ex. highlight living wage, vacancy rate, rental rates, affordability levels by income/ career.

Ultimately, we hope this film will inspire discussions about housing solutions and underpin the need for continued advocacy, partnerships and action at a local level- all of which we will unpack at the forum to follow the next day.

November 20th

9:00- 2:00pm

Affordable Housing Forum

The following are draft components we have considered including as part of this year's forum

1. CSJ Strategy- reporting on progress
2. Keynote- Mixed income housing and communities- diversifying revenue and housing models
3. Launch of the NIMBY toolkit

November 21st

Open doors bus tour

Details TBD

November 22

National Housing Day

Tentative Official Opening of Convent Square -Nagle Manor

Conclusion/Next Steps: We would like to discuss with the AHWG members the above draft outline of events, areas of involvement and areas of support. We will be asking the AHWG at this meeting to save the date for event dates/ times

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Approved by/Date/Signature: Judy Tobin, Manager of Housing Division

Attachments: N/A

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