

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CVRD Launches Affordable Housing PlaceSpeak Topic**

**Duncan, BC** – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) has launched a new PlaceSpeak topic aimed at spurring discussion around the issue of affordable housing in the Cowichan region.

The CVRD Board is considering *Cowichan Housing Association Annual Financial Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 4201* to provide an annual financial contribution to the Cowichan Housing Association to assist with costs related to creating more affordable housing.

The proposed bylaw addresses the issue of affordable housing in the region by:

- Creating a regional service to provide annual funding to the Cowichan Housing Association to assist with costs for programs and services related to affordable housing and homelessness prevention in the Cowichan region; and
- Establishing a tax to raise \$765,000 per year to be managed by the Cowichan Housing Association to leverage and attract funding from the federal and provincial governments to build affordable housing. This tax will be assessed through an annual property value tax of \$4.58 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

It's important to note that of the total of \$765,000 per year, \$500,000 (65%) will go directly toward helping to get "bricks and mortar" projects underway. A further \$138,000 (18%) is committed for programming to prevent housing loss, developing partnerships and research and data collection.

PlaceSpeak provides a single stop for residents to engage with the issues that directly impact their communities. Once a resident has signed up for PlaceSpeak, they will automatically be notified of new public consultations based on their chosen notification distance.

Visit [placespeak.com](http://placespeak.com) to sign up for a free account. If you already have an account, go to [www.placespeak.com/cvrdaffordablehousing](http://www.placespeak.com/cvrdaffordablehousing) to join the discussion.

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*For more information, please contact:*

Bev Suderman  
Senior Planner, Community Planning  
250.746.2607  
[bsuderman@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:bsuderman@cvrd.bc.ca)

Terri Mattin  
Cowichan Housing Association Executive Director  
250.597.1376 ext. 104  
[terri.mattin@cowichanhousing.com](mailto:terri.mattin@cowichanhousing.com)  
<http://www.cowichanhousing.com/>