

Follow Up Questions from Virtual information Session on June 6, 2023

- 1. I am interested in the impact from Collingwood's perspective of the National Housing Strategy and the carve out for disabled peoples.**

We recognize that people with disabilities face unique challenges in accessing affordable and appropriate housing and note that households with activity limitations make up 11.3% of owners and 44% of renters in core housing need in Collingwood.

Representatives from local non-profits serving people with disabilities are included in stakeholder engagement with NBLC to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the master plan exercise.

- 2. How does Collingwood plan to implement affordable housing in the community when there is the issue of servicing capacity?**

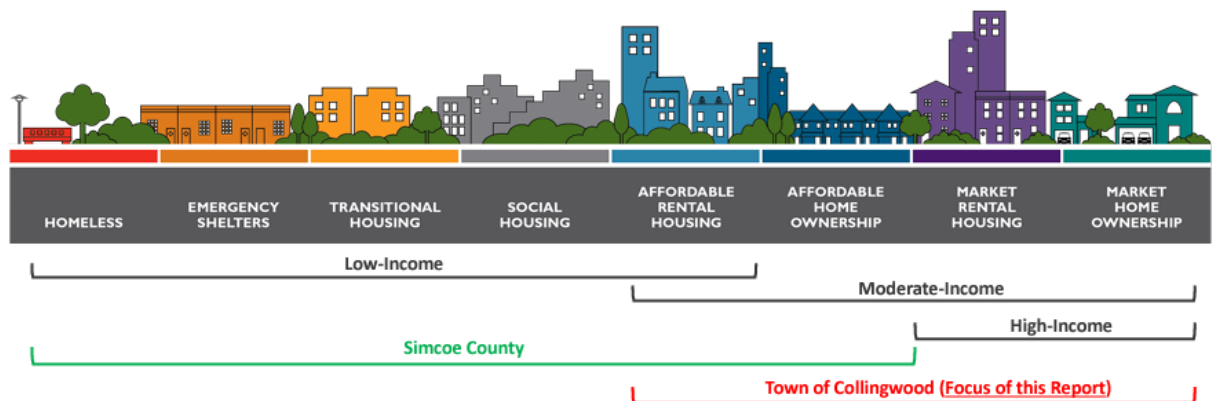
While water capacity continues to be a challenge for our community, the Town is able to allocate capacity to support shovel-ready development projects, to an upper limit every year. The Town's Servicing Capacity Allocation Policy (SCAP) includes a points-based system with extra points allocated for proposals with an affordable housing component, and we will continue to prioritize development projects with an affordable housing component. Further, a component of capacity has been set aside for municipally driven or public-private partnership affordable housing proposals. All shovel ready proposals advanced to date have received servicing capacity allocation and the Town continues to work on short-term solutions and the plant expansion.

- 3. How many homeless people do we have in Collingwood? Do we know their individual circumstances? Are they employed or seeking employment?**

While homelessness is a growing concern in Collingwood, it is important to understand that the Affordable Housing Master Plan focuses on finding solutions for moderate-income earners within the 4th to 6th income deciles. There is a key distinction between homelessness, social housing and affordable housing, though they can be related. They are all serious challenges in our community and across North America and they are happening concurrently. However, when we group the challenges together, we oversimplify the issues, duplicate efforts with other levels of government or agencies, spreading resources thinly, and risk creating obstacles instead of solutions. While the Town is focused on affordable housing, we do work closely with the County of Simcoe which is the lead level of government responsible for addressing homelessness and social housing. The graphic below helps clarify the roles, showing who leads discussions and receives related funding at the municipal level. For more information on the current state of homelessness in Collingwood, please watch the [June 5, 2023 Committee of the Whole](#) Meeting with an update from Dean Collver, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, starting at 2:34:00.

Employment and homelessness support programs, including social housing, rent supplements, downpayment assistance, etc. are all offered through the County of

Simcoe. More information can be found on the County's website:
<https://www.simcoe.ca/SocialHousing/Pages/home.aspx>



4. **I have a suggestion, not a question. It would be great if the Town had some sort of programs for those who have full-time permanent jobs with a reputable employer to help out with affordable housing. I love my job, but I am considering finding another one or relocating only because of not being able to find affordable housing either for renting or purchasing.**

Thank you for this suggestion. NBLC will consider this in their next phase of work as they begin developing recommendations. Community members are encouraged to share their suggestions in the "Share Your Thoughts" section of our project page at <https://engage.collingwood.ca/affordable-housing>

5. **Will there be an opportunity to be added to a waitlist within the master plan for a unit?**

The Affordable Housing Master Plan serves a broader purpose of exploring different approaches to support affordable housing. While building affordable housing is one possibility, it is not the sole focus of the master plan. The plan aims to examine a range of strategies and options that can contribute to affordable housing solutions. Developing a waitlist would be premature at this stage, as ultimate decisions regarding the outcomes of the master plan will be made by Council after careful consideration of all the factors involved and there are currently no units being constructed by the Town. Individuals in need of social housing, rent supplements, assistance with downpayments, or homelessness related supports can visit the County's website for more details and assistance program application forms: More information can be found on the County's website: <https://www.simcoe.ca/SocialHousing/Pages/home.aspx>

6. **Lack of affordable housing impacts the ability to retrain and attract youth. All professional roles have significant issues attracting to the area.**

The affordable housing crisis has a significant tie into economic development and our community's future viability. We have invited local employers to our stakeholder consultation systems to learn from them and come up with solutions together. Please

also consider sharing your personal story in the “Share Your Story” section on our project page at <https://engage.collingwood.ca/affordable-housing>

7. a.) **Would you consider using this list, which is an element of the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay’s Affordable Housing Toolkit, in your deliberations?**
<https://tisgb.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Affordable-Housing-What-can-your-municipality-do.pdf>

b.) This is not a question, rather a suggestion that, as there is no silver bullet solution, we do need to look at non-conventional strategies which include using social finance, community land trusts, housing cooperatives and NFP housing corporations. See the work that The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay has done with their Affordable Housing Toolkit which can be found at TISGB.com

Thank you to both participants for highlighting the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay’s comprehensive Affordable Housing Toolkit. This link has been shared with NBLC and can be found on this page under “Other Resources”.