

Community Focus Bulletin: ***Creating Community Conversations***



Prepared by Merriam & Associates

No. 8– 2016

Your opinion on housing is needed:

Housing is one of the most important features of all our lives. The Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC) is undertaking a survey and would appreciate your perspectives and insights into housing in our community. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by clicking on the link in this email.

This survey will be available online until 4:30 p.m. June 30th, 2016 at:
<http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/jchenier/housing-in-peterborough/>

The goals of this survey are to:

- learn the public's attitudes about housing and its relationship to quality of life;
- to start a community dialogue about the role that housing plays in individual participation in the community; and
- to investigate the public perception of the relationship between housing and economy.

Who is AHAC?

AHAC is a committee of citizens that advises the City and County of Peterborough, and advocates for:

1. the ongoing availability of affordable, accessible, appropriate and well-maintained housing;
2. the community supports and service necessary to ensure housing security; and
3. effective policy on affordable housing supply and services at all levels of government

To learn more, follow this link:

http://www.peterborough.ca/Living/City_Services/Housing_Division/AHAC.htm

Why is it important to take part in this survey?

Peterborough is changing. We are changing as our demographics change. We are expecting more from our decision makers at all levels of government. We are becoming more cognizant of the role that our social infrastructure plays in the economic health and well-being of our

community. We are wanting to have a greater role in shaping the community that is needed in the next 20 years. We realize that the general public should have opportunities to provide opinions and planners want to hear those opinions.

To plan for the community that we want to build for the future, there are a variety of consultation and planning initiatives that will help define that community:

1. **The Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network** recently released its strategic plan. It ties together the factors leading to poverty, these being:

- Income Security
- Housing
- Basic needs
- Employment & training
- Food security
- Community hubs

Each of these factors impact health and well-being. To obtain a high quality of life you require each of these factors to be balanced. Housing as one of these critical factors plays a major role in health and quality of life.

2. **Plan It Peterborough:** The City of Peterborough's Official Plan Review, is beginning its next phase of public engagement with the launch of Part 1 of the Draft Official Plan.

The Official Plan Update is being released in two parts which together will form a draft new Official Plan. Part 1 contains strategic policies for the City, connecting to several themes that were previously identified as priorities by the public and stakeholders through Plan It Peterborough while Part 2 will contain more detailed land use policies that implement the policy direction of Part 1.

Guiding Principles for the City:

- **A Complete Community:** A complete community is one that meets people's needs for daily living throughout their lifetime by providing convenient access to a mix of jobs, services, housing, community infrastructure, open space, and transportation opportunities.
- **A Sustainable Environment:** A sustainable environment is one that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **A Unique and Vibrant Sense of Place:** Communities have social and physical characteristics that make them special and unique and foster a sense of attachment and belonging for residents and visitors.

- A Linked Community: Peterborough is a social, cultural and economic hubs that is made possible by its ability to move people and goods throughout the city and region.
 - A Strong and Diverse Economy.
 - A strong, diverse economy is integral to a complete community.
3. **Welcoming Syrian Families to Peterborough:** The New Canadian Centre (NCC) is taking a lead role in helping Syrian families locate to our community. As a community, we know that changing needs, cultural expectations and changing demographics must be considered as we plan for those who will be future residents of the Greater Peterborough area.
 4. **Peterborough Council on Aging:** An extensive consultation process is underway to identify what we need to achieve an age friendly community. The role that housing plays in helping people to age in place is one of the issues that must be analyzed.
 5. **Peterborough's Integration Partnership:** The Peterborough Integration Partnership and the New Canadian Centre recently released the 2015-20120 Community Integration Plan. The three key priority areas of focus are:
 - *Social Infrastructure and Planning (Building an Inclusive and Engaged Community)*
 - *Economic Infrastructure and Planning (Enhancing People's Economic Well-Being)*
 - *Outreach and Policy Change (Educating for Change)*

This is your chance to provide your thoughts on housing and the role it plays in the Peterborough of the future.

For more information about our upcoming Community Focus Bulletins go to

<http://www.merriam-associates.com/contact-us>

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June, 2016