

National Call for Advisory Committee Members for Creating a Step-by-Step Guide to Building Cost-Effective Sustainable Affordable Housing

Deadline for applications: Extended to June 6, 2018

The ARDN is excited to launch a call for a national advisory committee to provide critical feedback on the creation of a publicly available and comprehensive step-by-step guide on how to successfully develop, build and manage affordable housing. The first version of the guide will be published in March 2019 and based on real projects that ARDN is building in conjunction with its partners.

Background

Investment in affordable housing is critical to ensuring Canadian communities continue to thrive, but developing and managing affordable housing is a massive undertaking, which comes with many challenges. This is especially true in rural communities, where resources and support services may be lacking. These challenges can translate into uncertain financial risk, which ultimately can end a project before it even starts.

While there are guides to help local governments stimulate the creation of new affordable housing developments, there is currently no proven guide that identifies and assists community groups (government and non-government groups) through each step that is required to build and manage affordable housing, or that helps community groups understand and mitigate risk at various stages of such a project.

The Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) was created to support communities and organizations in their efforts to increase their affordable housing inventory. Through our initiative, we explore different ways to minimize risk to ensure sustainability without the requirement of long-term government subsidies or supports for operations once construction is complete. After reviewing common practices, we determined that to be truly sustainable, we needed to adopt an innovative approach to building better housing.

Our innovative approach has meant that all participating projects are net-zero, incorporate the International WELL Building standard, and are built using a modular approach. Additionally, throughout the entire process from needs assessments, community consultations, the development of business and financial cases, to construction, the SHI collects data, and documents best practices and lessons learned. This will shape the step-by-step guide the SHI will publish on building sustainable affordable housing in Canada, with input and review from experts nationally. This resource will include templates and processes to support CBOs through the process of developing sustainable affordable housing projects, with the ultimate goal of redefining how affordable housing is perceived and built in our communities.

Objective

The tool kit will help save community groups time and money by providing a free, comprehensive, step by step guide on how to successfully develop, build and manage affordable housing independently or with minimal outside help. The guide will be based on unique projects with a variety of owner/operator

models, including, but not limited to, private developers, not for profit groups and local municipal governments.

The NAC is crucial to the successful creation of this step-by-step guide on building cost-effective and sustainable affordable housing. The NAC consists of a diverse group of volunteers working together to address housing and homelessness issues in Canada.

We are dedicated to building a program that reflects the diversity of communities we serve. This includes diversity in languages spoken, culture, race, sexual orientation and gender identity. People from communities that traditionally experience discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity or immigration status; women; people with disabilities; and LGBTQ+ people are especially encouraged to apply.

Roles and Responsibilities of the National Advisory Committee

- Attend meetings (approximately five conference calls over the course of a year).
- Provide feedback on the process and approach identified in the guide.
- Review drafts of the guide and provide feedback.
- Identify the priority needs, with respect to building affordable housing that is sustainable.
- Make recommendations.

There is no salary available for these positions. Expenses will be covered.

Application Details

To apply, please complete the application form at: <https://goo.gl/forms/wNiddff0vzq2pLrE2>

If you have any questions, contact Lisa Bélanger at lisab@ardn.ca.

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