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Much Needed 'Sunshine Coast Housing Needs Assessment' Contract Awarded

December 16, 2019 – The Town of Gibsons, in partnership with the District of Sechelt and the Sunshine Coast Regional District, has awarded the contract for the provision of a 'Sunshine Coast Housing Needs Assessment' to Urban Matters CCC, a Vancouver-based Community Contribution Company that specializes in affordable housing, health and social planning, community development and social innovation.

Like many communities in BC, the Sunshine Coast is experiencing significant housing challenges around affordability and availability. In fact, according to <u>BC Non-Profit Housing Association</u>, the Sunshine Coast contains the highest proportion of renters in BC spending more than 50% of their income on housing.

The 'Sunshine Coast Housing Needs Assessment' aims to update the 2014 report <u>Housing on the Sunshine Coast: Trends, Needs and Directions</u> and develop a comprehensive picture of trends across the Sunshine Coast, while also identifying community-specific needs, gaps and opportunities. It will be paid for by a grant provided by the <u>UBCM Housing Needs Reports Program</u>.

A project kick-off meeting was held on December 9, 2019, with the first phase of the project to involve identifying stakeholders, launching a Steering Committee, undertaking background research, and preparing an engagement strategy. Under the terms of the contract, the project must be completed no later than June 15, 2020.

To see the related Request for Proposal and other project background, please visit: www.gibsons.ca/sc-housing-needs-assessment.

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