

# Mayor's Introduction

## Community Dialogue Session #1- Housing Needs in Upper Gibsons January 16, 2023

### Welcome/ land acknowledgement

#### WHY THIS DIALOGUE?

- Council has committed to community engagement
- Public participation motion was made only a month ago, then holiday break happened
- Coming back in January, we decided it was best to do it now, as some developments are already on the table (hence short notice)
- Also: challenges of being new council vs. business of the Town needing to move forward, especially after (some) already being on hold for 6 months due to election

#### WHAT IS (AND ISN'T) THIS DIALOGUE?

- It isn't official consultation on any one development, it is about the community's general vision and concern of higher-density housing in Upper Gibsons
- This isn't an official meeting of Council. Councillors are here to listen. If there are some consensus directions put forward by the community, we will take note of them, make a record of them in a future report of this meeting, and perhaps put them forward to our strategic planning process if it is relevant to strategic plan.
- This isn't a decision-making meeting. 30-40 people in attendance is a great number to generate discussion, we're not needing a large representation of the community.
- Regarding Council decision-making, it is important to recognize that public engagement is one influence but not the only influence on council decision-making. We need to consider ensuring fair and legal process. We need to consider the OCP, the Town's stated vision. We need to consider who isn't here, the entire community as the "public interest." We need to consider the overall current needs of the community.

#### WHAT IS THE INTENT?

- Informing the community on the issue—
- Listening
- To start our community dialogues positively and effectively

**Dialogue is a community effort. It is in all our best interests that this succeed. We are reaching out to you:**

- Listen and be listened to so that all speakers can be heard.
- Speak and be spoken to in a respectful manner.
- Develop or deepen understanding.
- Learn about the perspectives of others and reflect on one's own views.

