

For Immediate Release
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Housing Committee Reports First Year Progress

A Community Housing Plan and implementation of the “Head Start on a Home” program to assist first time entry level home buyers were two key achievements of the Yorkton Housing Committee in its first year, said Mayor James Wilson. Mayor Wilson was speaking at a special roundtable discussion with media September 14 at City Hall.

The Committee was formed by City Council in March 2011 to address issues of housing availability and affordability in the city, a result of rapid growth plus housing losses due to the 2010 flood.

The roundtable was held “to discuss achievements of the committee and to look at future plans to address housing issues in the community,” said Wilson.

Prior to setting up the committee, city staff prepared a “Housing Needs Assessment Study,” which “identified serious affordability issues in the housing market generally in Yorkton, availability being the most acute problem in the rental market”, said committee Co-Chair Tom Seeley. The study also “identified gaps in affordable student housing, housing for people with disabilities and seniors housing,” said Seeley.

The Community Housing Plan, developed by the Housing Committee, included goals to enhance the range of affordable housing, ensure sufficient land is available for housing, increase housing units for people with special needs and seniors, increase the number of rental units in the city and to improve housing affordability.

The committee has worked to develop a collaborative “open door” method to work with builders, developers, community organizations, not for profit agencies, business and the various levels of government, to achieve the goals of the housing plan, said Co-Chair Ron Skinner.

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