



DELEGATION FOLLOW-UP

Meeting: June 23, 2025

BACKGROUND: FCSS worked with RDN to obtain an estimation of housing insecurity in Claresholm. The report was presented to Council by a representative of RDN on Monday June 9, 2025.

DESCRIPTION: Over the past 4 years FCSS has seen a significant increase in people accessing our office for help with finding appropriate and affordable housing or housing issues. We saw the need to provide a comprehensive picture of housing insecurity and homelessness in our community. With the help of the Rural Development Network, we organized a survey that would give us a good estimation of our housing insecure clients and hopefully find some suggestions as to how to move forward.

The Homelessness Estimation Report gave us some great data and some suggestions for moving forward.

The Report suggests three opportunities:

1. Foster community awareness and understandings of housing insecurity;
2. Increase awareness of, and access to services and
3. Encourage sustainable housing growth in Claresholm.

The findings show that in this town at least 231 residents are experiencing housing insecure living conditions. We need to have more conversations around this. We need to bring awareness to this issue. FCSS is willing to share this information with the community, but we also need to have some community conversations. We need to better promote the little bit of services that we do have available.

If we cannot see it, it doesn't exist. So far, we don't have any people living in plain sight, so we don't have any homeless. We know this is a misconception.

We as a community need to share this with all government representatives and to advocate for help, and somehow, we need to encourage more low cost, affordable housing to be built. People want to live here. We see it in our Immigration projects, and in the huge waiting lists for senior accommodations but we can't grow without places for people to live.

PROPOSED MOTION: Moved by Councillor _____ to approve the Claresholm Housing and Service Needs Community Report and to direct the Claresholm and District FCSS board to review the report and its findings/opportunities.

ATTACHMENTS:

PREPARED BY: Barbara Bell

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney

DATE: June 20, 2025
