

50 Community members joined us for the Housing Solutions Lab open house.
This is what they shared.

This report summarizes comments shared at the September 2023 event. Phrasing and ideas are left as they were expressed by participants, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of SFU Renewable Cities or Hollyburn Community Services Society.

Renewable Cities will release a report with specific recommendations and analysis based on this feedback.

CAUTIOUS SUPPORT FOR POTENTIAL HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Overall, open house visitors expressed interest in the proposed housing solutions, however wondered about the details.



This is great / interesting but...

"There [are] a lot of 'what ifs.'"

"It needs multi-faceted discussions."

"How is it going to be executed?"

Attendees expressed strong interest in secondary suites and coach houses, as well as alternatives like co-housing.

*"These housing solutions will provide additional **energy to communities** - all three options have tremendous **potential** and **benefit for the community**."*

MAJOR AREAS OF QUESTIONS AND CONCERN

The following issues were raised during the open house.

Renter/owner dynamics

- Social and legal difficulties when ending tenancies.
- Precarity for renters.
- Distressing eviction processes.



Personal contexts

- Lack of interest in sharing space.
- Concerns about arrangement by older adults' family.
- Uncertainty that privacy needs could be met.



Municipal challenges

- Restrictive zoning.
- Confusion over permitting processes.
- Frustrations about length and complexity of permitting processes.



Construction challenges

- Restrictions of B.C. Building Code.
- Older homes are not conducive to housing options.
- Fluctuating material costs.
- Difficulty finding a good contractor, especially during shortages.



Financing

- Options with more privacy are costly.
- Very hard for people to take on a loan in older ages.
- Homeowners are looking for financial incentives to spur action.



INCREASING PRESSURES AND LACK OF GUIDANCE

The housing crisis creates a lot of stress for seniors deciding how and where they want to age. Both homeowners and renters expressed stress and anxiety about their current housing context and lack of affordable or palatable options.

*"These options **aren't accessible** to everyone."*

*"There aren't any **downsizing options** for big houses."*

*"[I have a] large lot with a lot of upkeep **mentally** and **physically**."*

*"It's a lot and **it's all on me**. Nobody can advise me."*

- Older adult who spent 18 months exploring downsizing options.



MOTIVATIONS FOR CONSIDERING HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Social responsibilities



*"I also feel a sense of **social responsibility** just to **open my house**."*

*"Part of the problem is we are a **spoiled generation**."*

*"It feels wrong to have my house empty because **there are many without homes**."*

Social support



*"**Isolation** is a real health contributor."*

*"It will be wonderful if they want **social interactions**."*

