

Housing Policy

Protecting People and Property

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Implementing and Enforcing Policy

- What is the value of a housing policy?
- What are the barriers to implementing and enforcing the policy?
- How can the barriers be overcome?
- What can *you* do to support policy implementation and enforcement?

The Value of a Housing Policy

- Protects people and property.
- Can reflect culture, tradition and values.
- Helps to maximize limited resources.
- Provides direction for the administration.
- Supports and enhances the governance style of leadership.

Barriers to Implementing and Enforcing

- The policy lacks sufficient detail or direction and/or is outdated.
- Lack of support to enforce the policy.
- Insufficient and/or unqualified staff resources to implement and enforce the policy.
- Lack of communication and awareness of the policy.

Overcoming the Barriers

- Study the barriers – why do they exist?
- Confirm whether a new approach is needed.
- Ask for support – talk to Chief and Council and others that can help.
- Step forward and take action!

Improving the Policy

- Include a separate section for each program or service.
- Confirm ownership and obligations of all parties.
- Include detailed procedures and supporting resources.
- Ensure consequences for policy violations are real and enforceable and will be supported.
- Review annually and amend where necessary.
- Network with others for ways to improve the policy!

Overcoming Lack of Support

- A) All Parties
 - Define roles and responsibilities
 - Stress the benefit of changing practices
 - Demonstrate and report on the value of policy enforcement
 - Provide capacity development opportunities
- B) Leadership
 - Provide frequent information sessions/updates to Council
 - Seek out their advice on challenges *before* they become obstacles
 - Provide housing orientation as soon as possible after an election

Overcoming Insufficient Administrative Resources

- Dedicate sufficient staff resources to administering and managing housing programs and services.
- Have job descriptions with defined qualifications and expectations and complete staff performance reviews.
- Increase capacity to respond to housing issues.
- Offer an orientation session on the housing policy to all band employees (how does housing impact their department?)

Overcoming Lack of Awareness

- Prepare regular reports to Council and membership.
- Make the policy available to all.
- Increase contact and communication with occupants.
- Have approved applicants acknowledge their understanding of the policy.
- Include client counselling procedures in the policy.
- Consider an annual general meeting on housing.

Next Steps

- Consider your own housing policy -- are these barriers familiar?
- What can you personally do to address or resolve them?
- Who can assist you?
- If able to address these barriers how would your community benefit?

Conclusion

- Don't wait for someone else to do something
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