

The Housing Registry – Looking to the Future

Have you completed your survey?

Earlier this month you received an email asking for your input.

Since 1999, The Housing Registry has provided a current, centralized database of applicant information that non-profit and co-op providers use to fill available units.

A consultant has been engaged to conduct research and explore options to increase the value, usefulness and benefits of the Housing Registry and to ensure that The Housing Registry continues to meet the needs of housing providers and applicants in search of affordable housing in British Columbia. Council encourages everyone to complete the survey to ensure you have a voice in the process. If you haven't completed the survey yet, please consider doing so now.

More than one person per agency/organization is welcome to complete the survey! Please share the survey link with your colleagues and coworkers who have an interest in The Housing Registry but may not use the database in their roles. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and if submitted by **February 5, 2016** you will be eligible to enter to win one of two \$50 visa gift cards. Another survey has been sent to housing providers who do not use The Housing Registry.

Click here to start the survey: [member survey](#)

Homes away from home: the arrival of Syrian refugees

Over the next year, Canada will welcome up to 25,000 of the millions of Syrian refugees who are fleeing violence in their country. Resettling refugees is an important part of our country's history, and one we should be proud of. As such, The Housing Registry is committed to supporting refugees by working with our members to connect them to affordable housing.

Government-assisted refugees have always been eligible to apply for housing through The Housing Registry. This policy remains the same, as will the rest of the eligibility requirements for housing.

As refugees arrive in British Columbia, the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) will meet them and transport them to temporary accommodation, where they can access a range of support services, including first language settlement support, women's peer support and employment and children's programs. ISSofBC also assists refugees with their search for longer-term housing, either in the private market or assisting with The Housing Registry application process.

As applications are processed, expect further communication which will include file numbers and details (size, location, housing types) required. Ultimately, each housing provider needs to determine for themselves whether they can or will prioritize applications from Syrian refugees.

Annual Meeting of Members – Deadline to RSVP Extended!

All members have received an invite to the Annual Meeting of Housing Registry members on February 23, 2016 from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Members can attend at an in person in Burnaby, Victoria or Nanaimo or can participate from your own office via teleconference and webinar.

Please RSVP:

Preregistration is required. The RSVP deadline has been extended to **February 5, 2016**.

RSVP by emailing Rhonda Forster at rforster@bchousing.org and specify:

- Number of attendees; and
- if you will be attending in person or via teleconference.

