



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2020

Council approves Land Acquisition Program design and funding for in-kind feasibility study

Grand Forks City Council is pleased to report it has approved the Land Acquisition Program submitted January 20th by the Land Acquisition Team (Keystone Appraisals Inc.). This is an important step forward in achieving a primary goal of the City's **Recovery to RESILIENCE** program, which is "to help property owners in the land acquisition area find and relocate to replacement homes in 2020-2021."

Land Acquisition Program

The LAP is well underway, with Keystone having inspected 75 percent of single-family residential homes and all vacant lots. The project director estimates that 60-80 offers will be completed by the end of February.

Workshops and drop-in clinics in December and January identified that many property owners want to remain in their homes until flood mitigation works commence. The Land Acquisition Team has developed a process to accommodate those requests.

Details about the LAP are available on Keystone's website at <https://keystoneappraisals.ca/grand-forks-voluntary-land-acquisition-program/>, including the approved method for determining the land acquisition purchase price for each property.

As the first point of contact for questions about the Program, Keystone can be reached by email at grandforks@keystone.ca, by phone at 250-442-0024, or at the office (#4-7375 2nd Street).

Any unresolved questions can be sent to in writing to the City: Graham Watt at gwatt@grandforks.ca, Justin Dinsdale at jdinsdale@grandforks.ca, or a note left with staff at City Hall (7217 4th Street). Staff will then meet with the Land Acquisition Team to discuss and report back, as appropriate.

In-Kind Reinvestment Program

On January 27th, Council also approved budget for a detailed feasibility study and funding plan to support an In-Kind Reinvestment Program.

The City and Land Acquisition Team remain committed to investigating this opportunity, through which serviced City lots and the relocation of moveable houses could be considered as "in-kind" support for affected property owners. This would also help maintain much-needed housing stock within the city. A detailed work plan for assessing the options will be provided to Council in February, after which City staff and Keystone will share information with the community as feasibility and planning work proceeds.

Please stay tuned for a more comprehensive mailout in the coming weeks with more information on land acquisition and the broader DMAF program.

MEDIA CONTACT

Graham Watt

Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Flood Recovery

gwatt@grandforks.ca

250-442-4159