

Minutes
Council's Response Committee on Housing and Emergency Shelter (CRCHES)
Committee Meeting
August 13, 2025 – 9 am
Finance Meeting Room, City Hall

Attendees: Councillor Trevor Bolin, Councillor Sarah MacDougall, Councillor Klassen, and Bonnie McCue (recording secretary)

1. Call To Order:

9:00 am

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

The July 13, 2025, CRCHES meeting minutes were provided and will be included on the next Regular Council agenda.

4. Invited Guests/Presentations

None

5. Updates and Progress Reports:

- Response from Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs was provided. – The response noted that Minister Boyle has replaced Minister Kahlon, and is extremely busy getting up to speed on the portfolio. Minister Boyle will be attending UBCM.
- Committee Member Updates:
 - Council met with the new Executive Director of the Fort St. John Salvation Army. The meeting went well, and CRCHES would like to request a tour and further meeting with the Executive Director.
 - Councillors Klassen and MacDougall met with Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Summit in July. The discussions were positive, and there are opportunities to advocate through the Minister to bring together provincial ministries for local government needs. A letter will be drafted to thank the Minister for the discussion and to share the goals and report from the CRCHES committee.

6. Ongoing Discussion Items
None

7. New Business

- A response from the FOI request to BC Housing was received:

“The city of Fort St. John has 164 housing units that are directly managed by BC Housing. Currently, 9 units are ready for tenancy and the Property Portfolio Manager is in the process of offering them out. Additionally, there are 15 vacant properties requiring work. These are expected to be ready in two phases.”

- The resolution Council passed at the July 28th Council meeting, requesting that BC Housing fill vacant units in the community, will be shared with Heidi Hartman, Associate VP Supportive Housing and Homelessness at BC Housing.
- CRCHES will schedule another business walk to meet with businesses in the fall.
- Councillor Klassen will reach out to the Alliance Church to initiate a conversation.
- An updated report will be developed of CRCHES activities for the committee to present to Council at a meeting in October.

8. Budget and Resource Planning

None.

9. Action Items

- Request a meeting and tour of Salvation Army facilities with new ED.
- Draft and send letter to Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities thanking for meeting at PNWER and sharing CRCHES report.
- Send letter with Council’s resolution regarding filling vacant BC Housing units in FSJ to the Associate VP of Housing and Homelessness, Heidi Hartman.
- Schedule a business walk.
- Prepare updated report to present to Council at a meeting in October.

10. Adjournment

10:00 am