

TO: His Worship Mayor Harrison and Members of Council
DATE: October 18, 2023
FROM: Erin Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Community Land Trust

Background:

On Wednesday, October 11, 2023, the Salmon Arm Economic Society (SAEDS) hosted a small group at the Innovation Centre to learn more about the concept of a Community Land Trust (CLT) and how it could be applied to help fill housing gaps in Salmon Arm.

Representatives from the City and SAEDS heard from Jen Casorso, Co-CEO of Urban Matters, who authored the attached guide (*Establishing a Community Land Trust with Non-Traditional Partners – A Roadmap for Local Governments in BC*) and slide deck. Jen explained that in order to facilitate a CLT, local governments can create a business corporation or dedicated non-profit society (Table 1 of the guide includes an overview). Another approach, which is not a CLT but could provide similar benefits is an in-house department. Each model has different risks and opportunities, including legal, political/ governance, financial management, borrowing, operations, taxation, asset acquisition and disposition and reporting (Table 2 speaks to these in more depth).

While initial funding would be required to set up a CLT, self-sufficiency is possible once a threshold number of units have been developed. A complete roadmap to creating a CLT is included on page 23 of the guide, which outlines a seven-step path, beginning with an assessment of local government and community capacity. It should be noted that a CLT can be created without the involvement of local government.

At this stage, SAEDS has asked the City to consider its current readiness to further explore the feasibility of a CLT, as a joint initiative.


Erin Jackson
Chief Administrative Officer