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North Shore Outreach Suggests Lack of Available Housing is Impacting Local Employers.

In a series of partnership outreach efforts, including a recent survey, the North Vancouver Chamber and North Shore Community Resources (NSCR) found that a lack of housing availability is having a direct impact on employers, employees and the local economy overall.

Among the survey's key findings are that the cost and/or availability of housing on the North Shore is significantly impacting the ability of employers to recruit and retain employees.

Other associated factors, including the transportation challenges moving to, from and across the North Shore were also cited by employers as key factors.

Comments by the 48 owners and managers who responded to the survey, which include private sector, public sector and non-profit employers, comments included:

"Yesterday I was in a meeting where we offered a position to a top candidate who turned down the position citing housing affordability as THE factor for refusing the job."

"Traffic to the North Shore compounds the difficulty in recruiting candidates"

"We have difficulty recruiting candidates from out-of-province as they very often disengage from the recruitment process after trying and failing to find an affordable home"

"Housing insecurity even hits us as business owners as we invested in our business instead of buying a house."

"The increased housing and rental costs on the North Shore make it hard for our organization to attract students and employees."

"Employees have also left to live in more affordable places"

Related surveys of businesses conducted by the North Van Chamber prior to the recent Federal and Provincial elections support these housing concerns; only COVID restart concerns and local transportation challenges ranked higher.

"These are significant challenges faced by all businesses and employers in our local community," says Patrick Stafford-Smith, CEO of the North Vancouver Chamber. "There's a



tangible link between housing and local businesses, one that affects employees, employers and the local economy. As a Chamber, we want to help advocate for more housing that reflects the needs of local business in our community.”

Murray Mollard, Executive Director of NSCR and Don Peters, Chair of the NSCR Community Housing Action Committee both agree: “Housing challenges are stressing the resources of our not-for-profit sector - they are stretched and challenged to serve our community. There are very real opportunities for all levels of government to work together to effect change in this area.”

About the North Vancouver Chamber

The North Vancouver Chamber is a not-for-profit, member driven organization dedicated to fostering a sustainable and prosperous economy. We make business ownership easier by creating strong connections and helping overcome obstacles to business growth. The North Vancouver Chamber members represent approximately 2/3 of the local employment and includes employers from 12 major sectors, with more than 90% being small businesses.

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About North Shore Community Resources Society

North Shore Community Resources (NSCR) designs and deliver programs and services that enhance individual and community well-being, social connections, empowerment and community participation that provides programs and services for people of all ages, backgrounds and incomes. The Community Housing Action Committee (CHAC) is a North Shore affordable Housing advocacy group.

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