

From: Sally Caudill <sally.caudill@canmore.ca>

Sent: June 5, 2025 4:20 PM

To: Global <Global@canmore.ca>

Subject: advocacy opportunity

Hi everyone,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a new type of proactive advocacy for the Town of Canmore's housing action work.

The issue

As you are all well-aware, Canmore is experiencing a housing crisis. With low a limited land base, housing availability, high rents, and an out-of-reach housing market due in part to second homeownership, it is getting harder to call this wonderful little town home.

Maybe this has affected you personally. It may have been a factor in your decision to move to our community to work at the Town. It may continue to influence your ability to stay here. Maybe you are commuting long distances to join your colleagues in person. Maybe the dream of actually living here, raising a family, and aging here feels like it is fading with each year that housing prices rise.

The response

I want you to know that the realities of housing pressures and prices is known and understood. It's why we are taking action to tackle this issue with a series of bold steps. One of those, as you have likely heard, is the Livability Tax Program.

Starting in 2026, non-permanent residents will pay rates equal to those who run tourist homes. 100% of this extra revenue will be set aside so Canmore can build the 2,000 new non-market homes we need. The Livability Tax Program will help fund new affordable housing options, while incentivizing our neighbours to join us full-time. Non-permanent residents can qualify for the lower residential tax rate if they have a permanent resident living at their property.

Did you know?

While non permanent residents do pay residential property tax, the per capita funding we get from the provincial and federal governments only counts permanent residents, so we get no funding for non-permanent residents, even though we have to build infrastructure to support them when they are here. This leads to a significant funding gap for infrastructure needed to support residential properties, regardless of who lives in them.

The risk

The Livability Tax Program is one of the best tools to address Canmore's housing crisis. But we're facing opposition from a funded and organized special interest group that aims to override our Town's decision by putting pressure on the provincial government to intervene. They would like to see the *Municipal Government Act* changed to prevent municipalities from implementing this type of tax.

What you can do

We have launched a campaign for the community to write to the province about their experience with housing in Canmore and in support of the Livability Tax Program.

We've created an easy way for you to write a personalized letter from your person email address to express your concern. You can find it here: www.canmore.ca/housingaction. You don't have to be a local resident to write a letter. Anyone impacted by housing prices who supports the Livability Tax Program can write a letter. Please consider sharing this campaign with your friends and family.

You are welcome to contact me with questions or ideas anytime.

Best,
Sally

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In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, I acknowledge and appreciate that I live, work, and play in the heart of the Treaty 7 territory of southern Alberta. This land is home to the Blackfoot Confederacy consisting of the Siksika, Kainai, and Pikani First Nations, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and, our most adjacent Indigenous neighbors, the Stoney Nakoda comprised the Bearspaw, Goodstoney, and Chiniki First Nations. We are located within the Rocky View Métis District 4 within the Battle River Territory. We are all treaty people.

My work day may look different than your work day. Please do not feel obligated to respond outside of your normal working hours.

Don't be discouraged by your incapacity to dispel darkness from the world. Light your little candle and step forward. –Amma