

For Immediate Release:

North Peace Housing Foundation Reviews Special Inspector's Report regarding the Autumn Lodge

On December 6, 2017, the North Peace Housing Foundation (NPHF) Board of Directors reviewed a report with respect to the decision-making process regarding NPHF's July 5, 2017 decision in favor of closing the Autumn Lodge in Berwyn. The report was prepared by Special Inspector Gary Gordon of Gordon and Associates who visited the area from October 4 - 6, and on October 30, 2017 to interview residents, families, staff, management, board members and members of the community.

The report, ordered by the Honorable Lori Sigurdson, Alberta's Minister of Seniors and Housing, was in response to a request from the residents of the Autumn Lodge for a review to be performed regarding how the decision was made to close the Autumn Lodge in Berwyn.

Special Inspector Gary Gordon's findings outlined that the decision in favor of closing the Autumn Lodge was based on sound strategic planning, financial analysis and that the board had authority to make decisions in realigning their portfolio based on trends and anticipated needs.

During the December 6th NPHF Board Meeting, the board supported the findings of the report and express regret for the hardships caused in the community with respect to the breakdown in communication and process surrounding the decision-making process. The board is truly sorry for how this transpired and the hardships it has caused to the residents, community members and our staff. We all agree this did not go smoothly despite our best intentions. The board is exploring all options for developing a communications policy/strategy to engage with the communities, municipalities and residents of our facilities.

Chair Eastman stresses, "Your voice is important, and we must start dialogue to achieve our common goal in providing safe homes for our loved ones in our community. Going forward, the NPHF Board of Directors will strive to communicate, engage and gather the input of all stakeholders so that together we can honor our seniors with the quality of life they deserve."

We have received the report and are taking time to review the findings. We are in conversations with the Minister of Seniors and Housing and our MLA about solutions and outcomes.

The Special Inspector's Report and NPHF's Business Plan can be viewed on the NPHF website here: www.northpeacehousing.ca.



Sandra Eastman, NPHF Chairperson