



Capital & Infrastructure Department

HOUSING ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

2022 WHAT WE HEARD

GŪKQĀ GŪTIE GŪLĒT DEGE KĒNGĪHDĒL
THEY ARE WORKING SO OUR HOMES ARE GOOD

An aerial photograph of a vibrant turquoise lake, likely a glacial lake, surrounded by dense evergreen forests and rugged, rocky terrain. The water's color transitions from deep blue to bright green near the shore. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Our Land, Our Housing, *Your Home*

The following feedback is from the first of two Housing Engagements that were held earlier this year. The session focused on what members would like to see in the community moving forward.

Read on to hear from the voices of our community.

“This housing meeting is important to all Kaska Dene people because we have to keep up with the cost of wood fuel and of looking after our house.”

Types of Homes

We asked participants to share what types of homes they would like to see in the community:

Apartment/Condos:

- Some people would be open to an apartment building in town.
- There are no amenities in Upper Liard; you need a vehicle to get anything
- It would be nice to be able to walk

Houses:

- Modern, with a foyer, porch and rocking chairs
- Storage space
- Large family homes as well as regular sized
- Space between homes for fire / Covid safety
- Laneway suites for extended families and guests

Smaller Homes:

- Some expressed a desire for a smaller home with natural wood burning stoves and yards
- Less expensive to heat
- Less maintenance (cleaning etc.)



Comments

Participants expressed the following comments throughout the Engagement.



“Stop building matchbox (small) homes. You are not thinking about their future family.”

■ Family

- Single people are in large homes while large families are in small homes; need to sort that out
- Single and young people need homes; they are still living at home at 30–40 years old
- Not enough family housing

■ Elders

- Elderly people are not going to move into an Elder's Complex; many are taking care of grandchildren and family members
- Elder's homes need to be checked

■ Health & Safety

- Too many dogs are running free; it's too dangerous to go for a walk
- Substance abuse in communities
- All the buried garbage could be affecting the water and health of our community
- Apartment buildings cause problems between tenants

■ Opportunities

- There is no work and no housing; people want to come home but there is nothing here for them
- Education system is not working
- No money from mining to help with construction/repairs
 - Help build just one house
 - Be more visible
- Not enough service for fuel

Your Ideal Community

We asked participants “what would your ideal community look like?” and the following were some answers.

Leisure & Community:

- Amenities in Upper Liard:
 - Community center
 - Skating rink
 - Daycare
- Community gardens in 2-Mile, Upper Liard and in town
- Playgrounds
- Parks with family areas, picnic tables and barbeque pits
- It would be nice to have an Elder’s area; build a sense of community close to services
- Docks, picnic area, outdoor bathrooms at 2 ½ Mile Lake
- Cabins out in the bush
- Add seating to fishing spots
- Scheduled bus / shuttle service between areas: assistance with shopping and checking the mail
- Supplied cords of wood with areas for cutting

“A bridge was built last year. Add a park”

Your Ideal Community

Housing:

- Fire smarting around houses
- Starter homes have 2 bedrooms at least
- Houses built to individual needs
- Emergency homes
- No more trailers!

“You need to take care of your stuff. No breaking things”

General Infrastructure:

- Black top on roads: vehicles get too much dust in them (water truck)
- Studies on solar
- Generating thermal hot water
- Street lights / LED
- Sidewalks
- Walking / biking paths; from Junction 37 and Upper Liard to Lower Post
 - With lighting for safety
- Road signs; street names, directions, etc.
- Pumps / water for fire suppression
- Security services

Suggestions

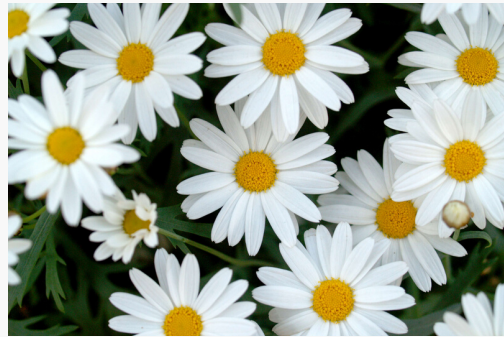
People would like to see the following:

► **Beautification Projects:**

- Haul garbage out
- Plant grass / flowers
- Snow shoveling / yard cleaning for Elders and people with special needs
- Hire gardeners

► **Recycling:**

- Create a policy about the recycling program
- No one knows about it and/or does not use it currently



► **Community Clean-up:**

- Soil testing at 2 ½ Mile Lake
- Wrecked vehicle clean up
- Create LFN salvage yard
- Add personal storage areas for members
- Test de-commissioned dump for medical waste etc.
- Timber needs to be cut up and piled in Upper Liard

► **Graveyard:**

- Cleaned up and expanded
- Rename plots with headstones

► **Old Church:**

- Church in Upper Liard is historical
- Work with diocese to restore
- Remove house beside the small church; no one wants to live there



Suggestions

► Two-Mile Lake:

- Need places to stay when visiting with kitchenette and services
- Campfire and cookshack
- Gathering locations
- Elders rooms
- Look at geothermal
- Recognize multi-generational properties and homes on the land
- Cultural consideration in land use planning



► Home Ownership:

- Some are ready for homeownership but need to know what that looks like
- Members who do own receive no help from the Nation
- Give all young people a chance to build their own home; we are there to give them hope & strength

► Communication:

- Have house/home plans available for review
- People have to work together and more information and communication needs to happen
- There should be more young people at these kinds of meetings
- Gathering spaces will help
- More meetings to keep people up to date

“All members are part of the money that comes into the Nation”

► Other:

- Mine funds should be used for housing
- We want to see land maps for layout and discussion
- The community mall and pool building be on heat from a generating plant
- Communicate with other communities for policies and designs
- Please make houses level with the road
- Waterhouses should be connected to house to prevent freeze ups
- Higher insulation and solar panels
- Neighbourhood watch program

- Want to see a land review of:
 - Upper Liard
 - 2-Mile | Fish camps
 - Watson Lake
 - Lower Post reserve #3
 - Frances Lake
 - Heritage sites
 - Family sites

The Ideal Home

Participants were asked to design their neighbours' homes. The following are categories and what members would like to see in each of them.

What should go into a...

FAMILY HOME

- Front entry foyer for taking off shoes
- Storage
- Extra storage
- More rooms / bedrooms
- Wood stove to save costs
- Large yard
- Laundry room
- Full kitchen
- Lots of bathrooms
- Master bedroom for parents
- R60 insulation
- Solar panels
- Build water room in home to keep warm
- Less maintenance

SINGLE PARENT HOME

- Think about Dads with single girls to raise
- Wood stove
- Extra rooms for visitors (grandparents etc.)
- Enough bedrooms for children
- Open concept
- Nice yard with grass
- Storage
- Laundry room
- Extra bathrooms

SHARED HOME (ROOMMATES, COWORKERS)

- Family/media room
- More washrooms
- Large kitchen
- Storage
- Handicap rooms
- Fridge/microwave for diabetics

SINGLE PERSON HOME

- At least 2 bedrooms
- Storage
- Boot room / arctic entry
- Laundry room
- Big kitchen
- Walk-in closet
- Open concept
- Lots of windows
- Stainless steel countertops

The Ideal Home

What should go into a...

ELDER'S HOME

- Ramps
- Fireplace gathering
- Home care
- Safeguards in bathrooms
- Safety rails
- Ramps or low step
- Wheelchair accessible
- Front porch with rocking chair
- Security
- Walk through at Elder's complex once it is done
- Shuttle bus
- Free phone lines for medic alert
- Wood stove in all homes
- 36" doors
- Floor leveling
- Wood boiler heating
- Large bedrooms



The Ideal Community

People also expressed the following:

- Biking trails
- Convenience store
- Gas station
- Bingo hall
- Large children's playground
- Clean lake for swimming
- Large park
- Walking trails around lakes
- Park benches
- Park benches
- Outdoor toilets
- Picnic tables
- Larger laundromat
- Modern community hall
- Native grocery store
- Greenhouse to sell or give produce
- Non bias/judgemental drug addiction centre
- Snowshoe trails

Sógā sinlā!

We are thankful to every member who provided their valuable input in this Housing Engagement. We have heard your voices and will continue the work for our community.



Capital & Infrastructure Office - 867-536-2401
24/7 Housing Support - 867-749-0088

Do you have anything else to add? Provide your feedback at our online Housing Survey using the link below.



[liardfirstnation.civilspace.io/en/projects/2/
engagements/3/sections/1](https://liardfirstnation.civilspace.io/en/projects/2/engagements/3/sections/1)