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MEDIA RELEASE

March 18, 2024

For Immediate Release

CRPS Moves Forward with Lawrence Grassi Lands Development in Canmore

Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) is excited to announce the advancement of the Lawrence Grassi Lands development project, a significant step towards enhancing the housing landscape in the Town of Canmore. The project is about to enter the procurement phase, with a Request for Procurement (RFP) process set to identify potential contractors and suppliers for the project's initial phase, which will focus on staff accommodation.

Arlene Rheaume, CRPS Board Chair, expressed her enthusiasm for the project, articulating the dual impact of the development. "This development is not just about building homes; it's about fostering a community where our staff and their families can thrive. Equally, if not more important to our board, is that proceeds from this project will be earmarked for a Legacy Fund, which will enhance educational programs for students for generations to come."

The Lawrence Grassi Lands project aims to diversify Canmore's housing supply, offering smaller affordable apartments, townhomes, purpose-built rental housing, and affordable housing options. Approximately 33 per cent or 40 of the total units will be designated as affordable housing, contributing significantly to the town's housing diversity.

Mayor Sean Krausert of Canmore voiced strong support, stating, "The Town of Canmore is fully behind this project. It aligns perfectly with our vision for housing diversity and community development. The strategic location near Centennial Park and the emphasis on sustainable transportation options exemplifies thoughtful urban planning."

Key benefits of the Lawrence Grassi Lands development include:

- A variety of housing types in a central location, enhancing the diversity of Canmore's housing options.
- A design that complements the existing neighborhood, featuring medium-density residential buildings with a mix of studio to three-bedroom units.
- Improved accessibility and connectivity, with the site located within walking and cycling distance to essential amenities in downtown Canmore.
- A positive environmental impact, with no sensitive lands affected and a design that deters wildlife from residential areas, enhancing safety.

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The development is a strategic response to Canmore's acute housing crisis, providing much-needed solutions to attract and retain essential staff and their families. At this stage of the process Rheaume said the division is committed to supporting local businesses throughout this RFP process, emphasizing the board's dedication to the economic well-being of Canmore.

"This project represents a proactive approach to our housing challenges, drawing inspiration from successful models like the Calgary University District. We're excited to see the Lawrence Grassi Lands development come to fruition, offering tangible benefits to our community and our education system," added Rheaume.

The Lawrence Grassi Lands development is a testament to the collaboration between CRPS and the Town of Canmore, showcasing a shared commitment to creating a vibrant, sustainable community for current and future residents.

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