



REPORT TO: Co-Chairs and Members of
Public Health and Social Services Committee

SUBJECT: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Social Housing Capital Repairs Funding

RECOMMENDATION

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that this report be received for information and approval to:

1. Receive \$3,101,293 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for social housing capital repairs; and
2. Transfer of funds to Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) to administer and ensure compliance with all associated requirements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Niagara Region, as the service manager for social housing, has received \$3,101,293 of funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the purpose of social housing capital repairs including emergency repairs, health and safety repairs and energy efficiency improvements.
- The Region requires approval to transfer the funding to NRH as our social housing provider.
- NRH would be responsible to ensure that the guidelines and reporting requirements associated with the monies are adhered to on behalf of the Niagara Region.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to inform Committee and Council of the receipt of \$3,101,293 in funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for social housing capital repairs including emergency repairs, health and safety repairs and energy efficiency improvements.

In addition, this report is to obtain approval to transfer these funds to NRH as the Region's social housing provider. NRH will be responsible to adhere to all guidelines and reporting requirements associated with the funding.

BACKGROUND

The 2008 Provincial budget in April allotted \$100 million for social housing capital, of which Niagara Region received \$3,101,293. The Province recognized the needs of municipalities and the funding challenges associated with social housing capital repairs and Niagara is no exception.

The Niagara Region, as the social housing service system manager received correspondence dated June 26, 2008 (Appendix A) and the associated funding of \$3,101,293 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

REPORT

The Niagara Region is in receipt of funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for social housing capital repairs including emergency repairs, health and safety repairs and energy efficiency improvements. The Region requires approval to transfer these funds to NRH to allow for NRH to implement the program on the Region's behalf and to ensure that NRH is in compliance with all guidelines and reporting requirements associated with the funding and work with Corporate Communications for all media announcements related to the new funding.

The social housing capital repair fund guidelines are intended to respond to urgent capital repair needs to achieve tangible results and deliver positive impacts on social housing residents at the earliest possible time. The guidelines require that the service system manager develop and submit a capital repair plan outlining the proposed allocations of the fund, the related time lines and scope of proposed repairs. Input to the plan may come from project operational reviews or the results of the building condition assessment. The final repair plan and expenditure budget must be submitted by September 30, 2008.

As a result of the timing of the next NRH Board meeting as well as the need for consultation with the housing providers of Niagara to ensure the maximum benefit of the funding, a draft spending plan will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval on September 29, 2008. The Ministry has confirmed verbally that receipt of a draft plan on September 30, 2008 will meet the compliance guidelines. Consultation with providers is necessary to ensure support for

the program design and that value for money principles are utilized. In addition all submissions for use of the funding must be evaluated against the criteria provided by the Ministry to ensure compliance with its definitions of eligible expenditures .

NRH has developed a work plan to develop a final document for the submission to the Ministry and is as follows:

Design of the program – August / September
Consult with the housing providers –September
Prepare Board report with options –September
Develop materials for the Ministry –September
Submit a draft program to the Ministry – September 30, 2008
Finalize program design – early October, to reflect Board input
Report to Public Health and Social Services Committee – October 7, 2008
Request to Regional Council for approval – October 16, 2008
Submit an approved program to the Ministry – October 17, 2008

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Brian Hutchings
Commissioner, Community Services

Mike Trojan
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Cathy Cousins, Director Operational Support Services, and reviewed by Lora Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing.

Appendix A: Correspondence dated June 26, 2008 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing