

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT  
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.  
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DATE 16 November 1999

TO/DEST. Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Commissioner, Social Services

SUBJECT/OBJET **COMMUNITY HOUSES, OTTAWA-CARLETON HOUSING  
 COMMUNITIES**

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**DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

**That Community Services Committee defer to year 2000 budget discussions any decision to retroactively adjust Community Houses funding for 1999 and/or increase their funding for year 2000.**

**BACKGROUND**

Community Services Committee carried the following Motion on 4 November 1999:

*Given that community houses serve low-income families and children (pursuant to the goals of the National Child Benefit Reinvestment Fund), staff be directed to report back on the possibility of allocating dollars from the 1999 reinvestment fund to the community house;*

*Further that the request for a permanent change to the base funding be referred to the 2000 budget estimates*

**DISCUSSION**

Social Services has funded the co-ordination of Community Houses through one-time funding since 1988. In 1997, Community Services Committee approved the transfer of \$95,000 from the Social Services project funding (one-time grants) envelope to the Purchase of Service funding envelope in order to ensure more stable funding for these functions. The total funding for 10 Community Houses in 1999 was \$150,000.

Social Services recognizes that Community Houses, as well other groups of community organizations which receive funds from the Region, experience difficulty in attracting and maintaining qualified staff. They are also struggling to maintain, if not increase, levels of services with shrinking resources and increased demands for services. Social Services will address the need for a permanent change to the base funding of agencies which receive Regional funds, including Community Houses, in the Community Funding recommendations for year 2000 budget.

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The need for increased base funding has been documented by community organizations in their budget submission for year 2000. The budget requests submitted from individual Community Houses for year 2000 range from \$15,000 to \$27,000, the majority requesting funds in the area of \$25,000.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

In 1999, the National Child Benefit (NCB) reinvestment fund was earmarked for employment related expenses of Ontario Works (OW) participants, Employment Development and for Support for Families and Children. Some 1999 funds remain unallocated at this time.

### CONCLUSION

At a base rate of \$15,000 per year per Community House, a limited number of hours of community programming can be purchased. Should additional regional funds be allocated towards community funding in 2000, Social Services would suggest an increase to the base funding of Community Houses, and other groups of organizations.

*Dick Stewart*

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