

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 03-07-99-0094
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 26 October 1999

TO/DEST. Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Committee Co-ordinator

SUBJECT/OBJET **OTTAWA-CARLETON HOUSING
COMMUNITY HOUSES PROGRAM**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Services Committee receive the presentation from Ottawa-Carleton Housing on the Community Houses Program

BACKGROUND

Attached is correspondence dated 7 October 1999 from Bryan Dorling, Chair, Ottawa-Carleton Housing (OCH) to Committee Chair A. Munter, requesting support for the funding proposals made by OCH's various Community Houses to hire Coordinators.

Chair Munter has requested that the Committee hear a presentation on the Community Houses Program at the meeting of 4 November 1999.

This material is respectfully submitted.

Approved by
M. J. Beauregard



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7 October, 1999

Councillor Alex Munter,
Chair, Community Services Committee
Region of Ottawa-Carleton
111 Lisgar Street
Ottawa ON K2P 2L7

Dear Councillor Munter,

I am writing in support of the funding proposals made by Ottawa-Carleton Housing's various Community Houses to hire Coordinators.

Community Houses have been developed in OCH's family communities to provide needed social and educational programs, to mobilize tenant leadership and self-help initiatives, to develop community pride and neighbourliness, and to create a bridge to outside services.

A survey completed by our staff this summer found that the Community Houses have done extremely well. In the year 1998, the various Community Spaces provided by OCH brought in a total of \$2.5 million in grant funding and programs. Together they ran a total of 135 weekly programs in addition to the many specialized short-term, summer and other seasonal programs, activities and celebrations they organized.

All Community Houses in our family communities are run by paid Coordinators, who administer programs, apply for grant funding and help tenants with their individual needs. The presence of a good Coordinator contributes significantly to the success of a Community House. The salaries of ten Coordinators are paid by a grant from the Region of Ottawa-Carleton. Each House receives \$15,000 per year. As salary and hours available are very low, it is hard for the Houses to attract and keep good Coordinators. During the past twelve months, six Coordinators have left their positions for other opportunities.

I urge you to give your best consideration to increasing the grant given to each Community House to at least \$20,000. Providing stability and a reasonable salary to House Coordinators will lead to better services offered by Community Houses.

Sincerely,

Bryan Dorling
Chair