

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 03-07-00-0127
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 28 August 2000

TO/DEST. Chair and Members, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. A/Committee Co-ordinator

SUBJECT/OBJET **COUNCILLOR'S ITEM - PROVINCIAL FUNDING -
MENTAL HEALTH**

At the request of Councillor D. Holmes, the above noted item has been placed on the agenda of the 7 September 2000 Community Services Committee. Please see attached documentation provided by Councillor Holmes.

*Approved by
Stephani Roy*

Date 3 August,2000
To/Dest. Dick Stewart ,Commissioner, People Services
From/Exp. Diane Holmes, Regional Councillor
Subject/Objet **Provincial Funding- Mental Health**

I am placing this matter on the agenda of the Community Services Committee in order to request that the Committee and Council direct staff to apply to the Province for funding.

The funding would provide for full time 'mental health worker' positions in each of Ottawa Carleton Housing's mixed age buildings(formerly seniors only buildings).

These buildings are the greatest resource of one bedroom apartments in the Region. The new generation of seniors have higher incomes and therefore more choice in housing. As a result there has been a drop in senior applications and an increase in younger single people applying for the units. There are numbers of residents with mental health diseases on the waiting list and subsequently there are now a significant number of residents in the mixed age buildings who suffer from mental health illnesses. If the present trend continues, there will be fewer seniors in these buildings over time.

The two group profiles of older, mainly women in their 70s and 80s and younger mainly men, many with mental illnesses now live together in high rise buildings. The seniors have many programs available to them to help them remain in their homes and age in place rather than move to institutions. The younger group have few programs to assist them to lead stable lives and therefore maintain their housing.

It is important that programs be made available to support the younger residents if we expect these buildings to work as long term housing for both these groups.

RECOMMENDATION:

That staff apply for mental health funding from the Provincial Government to provide for mental health workers in all the mixed age buildings in the Ottawa Carleton Housing portfolio.

