

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 03-07-97-0094
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 6 January 1997

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Councillor Diane Holmes

SUBJECT/OBJET **CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING
FEDERATION OF EASTERN ONTARIO INC.**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

For Committee discussion.

BACKGROUND

Attached please find correspondence from the Co-operative Housing Federation of Eastern Ontario Inc. which is self-explanatory.

Would you please put this item on the agenda for the 16 January 1997 Community Services Committee meeting.

*Approved by
Councillor D. Holmes*

C H F E O

F C H E O

**Co-operative
Housing
Federation of
Eastern Ontario Inc.**

**Fédération
des coopératives
d'habitation
de l'est ontarien inc.**

BY FAX AND MAIL

October 10, 1996

Mr. Peter Clark
Regional Chair
R.M.O.C.
111 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 2L7

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing on behalf of the many citizens in your municipality who have chosen to live in co-operative housing.

As you know, the Government of Canada has decided to turn over the jurisdiction for such housing to the provinces. This is worrisome for your constituents who live in co-ops because the Government of Ontario has already indicated that it wishes to "get out of the housing business".

This situation threatens the many values of the co-op housing lifestyle to which federal and provincial politicians pay lipservice: self-reliance, independence, community building and paying, with help from our tax money, our own way. Furthermore, the abrogation of social housing jurisdiction by the Government of Canada would weaken our important economic and social weight to your community: we shop at the local stores, we take part in local events, we maintain our homes properly, we are consistent members of the community.

Therefore, on behalf of my members I ask for your support in maintaining co-operative housing, which is part of your community. Please present the following motion to your council for adoption, preferably during National Co-op Week (October 13-19, 1996).

This motion represents a response to the federal Government's desire to turn over its jurisdiction for social housing to the provinces. In the last federal budget Prime Minister Chretien said he wants to hand over Ontario's 290 federally-funded co-ops to Premier Mike Harris. If this happens, three things will occur. First, the Harris government is unlikely to respect the operating agreement that co-ops have signed with the Canadian Mortgage and

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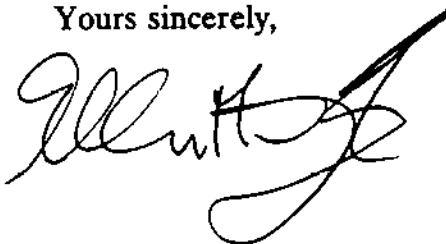
Housing Corporation. Second, the Harris government could cut co-op subsidies for low-income people. Third, the Harris government is not familiar with federal co-op programs, so it could re-interpret what co-op operating agreements say.

The proof of these statements can be found in the Harris government's record. In July 1995 Premier Harris cancelled more than 390 co-ops and non-profits that were under development. During the past few years many co-ops have had their levels of subsidy for low-income people cut. The Harris government has sent memoranda to all 260 provincially-funded co-ops to demand that they cut thousands of dollars from their operating budgets. Over the next two years these cuts could force most provincial co-ops out of business if the province goes ahead with them!

To meet this challenge, the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHFC) has presented a proposal to the Federal Government. This proposal calls for the co-op sector to take over administration of operating agreements between the Federal Government and housing co-ops. CHFC would set up a new not-for-profit agency to do the job. The agency would be controlled by the co-op sector but accountable to government through a multi-year contract. This proposal would save the Federal Government money and give co-ops better service. For more details, I have enclosed is the executive summary of the proposal.

The adoption of the enclosed motion would express your Council's support of the CHFC proposal. If you would like additional information, please contact Olga Tasci at our office (230-2201). I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen M. Loughheed', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end.

Ellen M. Loughheed
President

encl.

c.c. Councillors Cullen, Davis, Holmes, Legendre, and Munter

Suggested Motion:

WHEREAS housing co-operatives are generally considered a Canadian "success story" in bringing people together to meet their housing needs and to create safe and supportive communities;

WHEREAS the federal government has announced plans to phase out Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's role in social housing and to offer provincial and territorial governments to take over the management of existing social housing resources;

WHEREAS the Ontario government has clearly indicated that it "wants to get out of the housing business";

WHEREAS the Ontario government is reviewing the legal contract and budgets of every provincially-funded co-op housing project in the province;

WHEREAS the actions of the Ontario government threaten to destroy stable, well-maintained communities which have been built over the last quarter of a century and the investment of all Ontarians have made in this type of affordable social housing;

WHEREAS the federal government has indicated that third parties could play a role in the administration of Canada's social housing stock;

Be it resolved that this Council call upon the federal government to give serious consideration to the proposal put forward by the co-operative housing sector to administer the federally-assisted co-operative housing portfolio through a new, non-profit non-governmental organization established for that purpose.

COUNCIL ACTION	
DEC 03 1996	
FILE #	07-96-0091
DOC ID #	96-3980
ACTION	
TAKEN	
TO	<i>[Signature]</i>