

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

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 07-97-0127
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 19 September 1997

TO/DEST. Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Committee Co-ordinator

SUBJECT/OBJET **COMMUNITY MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR
ONTARIO WORKS**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Services Committee receive this presentation for information.

BACKGROUND

Councillor D. Holmes has requested that the Community Services Committee hear a presentation on the above-noted matter at the meeting of 02 October 1997.

During its consideration of Community Services Report 45, Ontario Works Business Plan (09 April 1997), Council approved the following recommendation:

That an independent volunteer panel be struck to evaluate how successful the Region's Ontario Works program has been and report at the one-year and two-year marks to Regional Council. That this panel include representatives of social service agencies, business, academia, labour, the broader community and social assistance recipients.

Representatives from the Social Planning Council and other community agencies involved in the volunteer panel will make a brief presentation to Committee.

This report is respectfully submitted.

Approved by
M. J. Beauregard

Community Monitoring Committee - Ontario Works

In response to the following Regional Council motion, that:

"An independent panel be struck to evaluate how successful the Region's Ontario Works program has been and report at the one-year and two-year marks to Regional Council. That this panel include representatives of social service agencies, business, academia, labour, the broader community and social assistance recipients" (April 1997)

a working group was formed in Spring 1997 by the Social Planning Council, which includes representatives from the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Anti-Poverty Project, the Coalition of Community Health Centres, Day Programs, Catholic Immigration Services, and other community partners, including a contact person from the Social Services Department. The working group met to develop the objectives, design, and key community partnerships that would be critical components of a successful project to monitor the impacts of Ontario Works in Ottawa-Carleton.

We believe that a credible monitoring committee and system for documenting the impacts of Ontario Works is a good investment for the Region. It will provide you with the information necessary to make changes to the program, and to communicate to the province on what aspects of the program work, and what does not work. It will also provide the Council, the department, and the community with a proactive strategy to respond to the needs of social assistance recipients in an environment in which we feel more and more "disempowered".

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to monitor the impact of Ontario Works in Ottawa-Carleton in partnership with social assistance recipients and the broader community.

Objectives of Monitoring

1. To document and examine the impact of Ontario Works on social assistance recipients and the effects on the broader community.
2. To ensure that the experience of recipients is brought forward to the Community Services Committee and the broader community.
3. To present an analysis which compares the experiences of recipients to the quantitative data which will be collected on Ontario Works by Social Services Department of the RMOC.
4. To identify issues as they arise; make recommendations on how to respond to these issues and ensure that follow-up action is taken.

The working group has developed a proposal which will be presented to the Community Services Committee, October 2, 1997. We have approached the development of a proposal as if we were "consultants" from the community, responding to your need with suggestions on how we could assist you in responding to this need, including realistic estimates of the cost, work and time that would be involved.