

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

REPORT  
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.  
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 12 March 1997

TO/DEST. Coordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Social Services Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **FUNDING STATUS FOR HOUSING AGENCIES -  
ACTION-LOGEMENT AND HOUSING HELP**

### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve that funding for Action-Logement and Housing Help be maintained at 1996 levels.**

### **PURPOSE**

This report responds to **Motions No. 33** and **No. 34** presented to Regional Council on February 26, 1997 and referred back to Community Services Committee (Motion No. 35). The Motions read as follows:

#### **MOTION NO. 33**

Moved by Councillor D. Holmes  
Seconded by Councillor J. Legendre

RESOLVED THAT Counselling/sustaining Grants for "Housing Help" be maintained at the 1996 level (\$3,707.00)

#### **MOTION NO. 34**

Moved by Councillor M. Meilleur  
Seconded by Councillor A. Munter

WHEREAS at its meeting of February 6, 1997 the Community Services Committee approved a staff recommendation to reduce the sustaining grant for Action-Logement by 4%, for a total reduction of \$957.00; and

WHEREAS Action-Logement offers its services in three municipalities and serves a multilingual population; and

WHEREAS there is a growing need for services offered by agencies such as Action-Logement as a result of provincial cuts to social services funding; and

WHEREAS many changes and uncertainties are anticipated as a result of recent announcements by the provincial government to transfer the responsibility of social housing to municipalities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the funding for Action-Logement be maintained at the 1996 level.

MOTION NO. 35

Moved by Councillor R. van den Ham

Seconded by Councillor A. Loney

RESOLVED THAT Motion Nos. 33 and 34 with respect to Grants to “Housing Help” and “Action-Logement”, be REFERRED BACK to the Community Services Committee.

“CARRIED”

BACKGROUND

Action-Logement and Housing Help have a history of funding with the Region dating back to 1989. This year, the funding envelope including these two agencies as well as the Regional Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women and the Women’s Action Committee Against Violence was transferred from the Planning and Property Department to the Social Services Department.

Action-Logement and Housing Help are the only two agencies within the Social Services Department community funding envelope which were recommended to receive a 4% reduction as a result of funding reductions to grants proposed by the office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

The motion to maintain the 1996 funding level for the two housing agencies was referred back to the Community Services Committee to receive a comment from staff concerning the need for these dollars.

## DISCUSSION

Action-Logement and Housing Help assist tenants and potential tenants on low-income to overcome barriers to accessible affordable housing, such as lack of information, illiteracy, homelessness and racism. In the context of lower welfare rates, increasing economic insecurity and rapid social and economic changes, the housing agencies are faced with situations of increasing complexity and urgency.

While both agencies provide services in both official languages, Action-Logement's working language is French and serves primarily the east section of the Region where the francophone population is concentrated, while Housing Help serves the west portion of the Region; its working language being primarily English.

### Client Profile

Problems related to housing needs experienced by residents and addressed by the two housing agencies include family violence, inadequate neighbourhood, homelessness, high rent, conflict with landlord, unsafe or inadequate housing. Over half of the clients receive General Welfare Assistance or Family Benefits Allowance. Many are in receipt of Employment Insurance, are low paid workers or are living on a fixed limited income.

## CONSULTATION

The two housing agencies were consulted in the preparation of this report.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

To maintain Action-Logement and Housing Help at the 1996 level of funding of \$23,931 and \$93,166 respectively requires the amount of \$4,684 in addition to the amount of \$112,413 already approved for 1997. This amount should come from Provision for Unforeseen as there is no provision for it in the Social Services Department budget in 1997.

## CONCLUSION

Action-Logement and Housing Help serve a vulnerable population on low-income constantly at risk of being homeless, a portion of whom are already homeless. The need for their services continues to grow.

*Approved by  
Dick Stewart*

DM/pd