

REGION OF OTTAWA-  
CARLETON

REPORT

RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.  
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 27 April 2000

TO/DEST. Coordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Commissioner- Social Services

SUBJECT/OBJET **ALLOCATIONS OF ONE-TIME 100% PROVINCIAL GRANT OF \$550,000 FOR DOMICILIARY HOSTELS**

---

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on the allocation of the one-time 100% provincial grant of \$550,000 to the domiciliary hostels.

## BACKGROUND

During the year 2000 budget process, Social Services presented to Community Services Committee and Council a report outlining the financial difficulties encountered by the domiciliary hostel program. The difficulties faced by domiciliary hostel operators were largely due to the absence of a provincial per diem rate increase for the past 7 years.

Council approved an increase to the per diem rate from \$34.50 to \$44.50. The cost sharing arrangements in place with the Province for this program would have resulted in a regional contribution of 20% of the total per diem increase (\$2.00) and a provincial contribution of 80% of the increase (\$8.00). Traditionally the Region has waited for the Province to approve their portion of a rate increase before actually providing the increase to domiciliary hostel operators. However, in light of the precarious situation faced by domiciliary hostels, Council took the unprecedented step of directing Social Services to begin paying its \$2.00 portion in advance of the provincial rate approval. The rate increase took effect January 1, 2000.

## PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, the Minister of Community and Social Services advised Social Services that the Province would provide a one time grant of \$550,000 to the Region of Ottawa-Carleton, to support domiciliary hostel operators to maintain or enhance services for the residents. The provision of this grant is not a per diem increase.

#### DISCUSSION

Social Services recognizes the initiative taken by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in providing a one time grant, as an acknowledgement of the importance of the services provided by domiciliary hostels and the precarious situation faced them. However, it is crucial to note, that funding available to domiciliary hostels still falls short of the \$44.50 required to operate with a margin of security.

The Province is continuing its review of domiciliary hostels to determine (1) the manner in which it will organize services for persons with special needs who require supportive housing and (2) the per diem level for these services.

Social Services met with the domiciliary hostel operators on April 18, 2000 to discuss and make arrangements for the payment of the provincial grant. Social Services will provide the grant on a basis proportional to the number of residents in each subsidised space in domiciliary hostels. As outlined in the provincial announcement, operators of domiciliary hostels will be required to demonstrate to the Region how the grant will be used to maintain or enhance existing services. Each domiciliary hostel will present a letter of intent outlining their plan by May 19, 2000.

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Province is undertaking a review of the program to determine consistency with other provincial programs providing housing and support services. A tri-ministry working group involving the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is in the process of formulating recommendations to address the housing requirements of people with special needs, including residents of domiciliary hostels.

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

The \$550,000 is 100% one-time provincial grant recently provided to this Region.

#### CONCLUSION

Social Services recognizes the importance of the services provided to residents of domiciliary hostels. The domiciliary hostel program is a key element of the overall system for the homeless, those at risk of being homeless and the community mental health system. Social Services will continue to bring to the attention of the Province the need to provide a permanent funding solution.

*Approved by  
Dick Stewart*

DS/HB