

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

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.
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DATE 7 January 1998

TO/DEST. Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Councillor Alex Munter
Chair, Community Services Committee

SUBJECT/OBJET **SOCIAL HOUSING WORKING GROUP**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council strike a Social Housing Working Group, as outlined in the attached report, to prepare for the transition to regional government administration of social housing in Ottawa-Carleton, and;

FURTHER THAT the Working Group will report to Council through the Community Services Committee, which will have responsibility for the policy decisions related to social housing.

BACKGROUND

One of the largest transfers of responsibility in the provincial government's downloading is the region's new role in social housing.

While we started to pay the bill for these housing costs Jan. 1, Queen's Park has remained vague about the next step of this devolution – the region's administration of this important service. This transition raises numerous issues:

- How should the region manage its social housing responsibility?
- How can we co-ordinate the delivery of housing with the region's other social services?
- How do we best integrate the disparate housing system to serve the needs of its current and future residents?
- How do we protect the region's taxpayers from debts and other liabilities related to social housing?

It is important that Regional Council take control of this issue and begin to plan the transition of this service. This report proposes the creation of a working group to start this task and to present Community Services Committee and Council with the information required to start making the policy decisions this new area of responsibility will require. The task force would include:

- Four Regional Councillors.
- Four representatives of the housing sector (one each from the public non-profit, private non-profit, Ontario Housing Corporation and co-operative sectors).
- Two social housing residents.
- Two members of regional staff.

Council will first name the four Regional Councillors to sit on this Working Group, who will initiate the selection process to recommend a further eight members to Council for approval. The Working Group's first assignment would then be to prepare a workplan to present to committee and council for approval. The Working Group is a temporary committee, designed to assist committee and council in the transition period of this service and will complete its work by Dec. 31, 1999 or earlier if circumstances permit.

The Working Group will report to Council through the Community Services Committee, which will have responsibility for the policy decisions related to social housing. This is primarily necessary because of the link between housing and other social services, particularly social assistance.

Approved by
A. Munter