

# Housing & Homeless Services Network

## Minutes

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Metro Hall, Room 308

**Attending:** Rob Aversa, Randy Baranosky, Michele Connell, Janet Fairfield, Ashley Featherstone, Vanessa Fletcher, Gloria Gallant, Lorne Gratton, Alexandra Gunn, Laura Jeschkeit, Darryl Kinnear, Dennis Lee, Sherry MacIntyre, Lara McLenan-Ben, Carol-Anne McLoughlin, Steve Milne, Patricia Mueller, Toby Mullally, Esther Mwangi, Rodney Nembhard, Ishtiaque Rahman, Michael Rosenberg, Fati Saliu-Ediabonya, Sonja Samsa, Vicki Sanders, Michael Shapcott, Renee Shentow, Ryno Sheriff, Tanya Simpson, Tracey Smith, Gord Tanner, Nick Volk, Sherry Waters, Fanny Wong, Sonny Yeung.

### 1. Call to Order

Janet Fairfield assumed the Chair and called the 5th session of the 2010 Housing and Homeless Services Network meeting to order. Minutes of the meeting held on May 12, 2010 were approved as circulated.

### 2. Live Green Grants, Toronto Environment Office, Kristina Hausmanis

Live Green Toronto is a 5-year program to encourage residents to reduce their energy use, help clean our air and protect our climate.

Key elements include:

- a one-stop “Live Green Toronto” website with tips, tools and resources to help you live green – [www.livegreentoronto.ca](http://www.livegreentoronto.ca),
- grants and funding for community-based green initiatives, and
- Community Animators to help neighbourhood and community groups get organized and turn their great green ideas into action.

There are two funding programs: Community Investment Program and Capital Project Fund

#### Community Investment Program:

Up to \$25,000 (in seed funding) per project for climate change and clean air initiatives that:

- are grassroots in nature;
- engage all members of the community;
- develop concrete collective approaches to reducing greenhouse gas and smog causing emissions; and
- inspire other people to make a contribution to making a positive change.

Priority is given to projects that:

- are grassroots, community-based initiatives;
- display innovation in terms of program design, audience reached or delivery mechanism;
- include local community partnerships;
- include clear measurable indicators (GHG emission reductions, etc);
- do not duplicate a program being delivered in the community by another organization;
- help communities take responsibility for protecting the environment;

- sustain and promote a greener economy and community; and
- create conditions to increase community engagement of people of all ages, abilities, economic levels and cultures.

Project examples include:

- Feasibility Studies;
- Environmental outreach and education campaigns;
- Tree Planting (note: prior approval is required from Parks, Forestry and Recreation or the appropriate property owner);
- Local Food;
- Sustainable Transportation Projects; and
- Social Networking on Environmental Best Practices.

### **Capital Project Fund:**

Grants of up to \$250,000 for community inspired projects which result in significant greenhouse gas emission reductions. Projects must involve the development, modification or enhancement of a physical asset resulting in a quantifiable reduction in greenhouse gas or smog-causing emissions. Capital Projects must include an outreach component to create conditions to increase community engagement of people of all ages, abilities, economic levels and cultures. Along with the priorities of the Community Investment Program, for Capital Projects, priority is also given to organizations that have a viable plan to sustain the project for the long term.

Project examples include:

- Renewable energy initiatives such as Geothermal and Solar Thermal Installations (note: funding for revenue generating technologies that are eligible for the Provincial FIT program (<http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/>) are not eligible for the Capital Projects Fund),
- Tree planting (note: prior approval is required from Parks, Forestry and Recreation or the appropriate property owner), and
- Storm water management technologies including rainwater harvesting, grey-water re-use, and irrigation systems.

### **2010 Fall Session Application Steps:**

- Application process opens: August 16, 2010
- Letter of interest due: September 13, 2010
- City extends invitation to apply: September 27, 2010
- Full application deadline: October 18, 2010
- Review Committee decision: November 30, 2010.

### **Organizations that are eligible to apply include:**

- residents and neighbourhood associations,
- community groups including youth and school groups, service clubs, and ethnic groups,
- charitable organizations operating in Toronto, and
- environmental organizations operating in Toronto.

Note: organizations that do not have charitable status, must partner with a sponsoring organization to act as a trustee.

Additional City funding programs targeted City to environmental issues include:

#### **Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF)**

[www.toronto.ca/taf](http://www.toronto.ca/taf)

Ben Marans, Manager of Grants & Special Projects; 416-393-6367 bmarans@tafund.org

**Clean and Beautiful**

www.toronto.ca/cleanandbeautiful/  
cleanandbeautiful@toronto.ca

**Sustainable Energy Funds**

www.toronto.ca/energy/sef.htm  
bbp@toronto.ca; 416-392-1500

**Community Program for Stormwater Management (CPSWM)**

www.trca.on.ca

**Home Energy Assistance Toronto (HEAT)**

www.livegreentoronto.ca  
311@toronto.ca

**Eco-Roof Incentive Program**

www.livegreentoronto.ca  
khausma@toronto.ca

**Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation**

<http://www.torontoparksandtrees.org/grants.htm>.

For more information please visit: [www.livegreentoronto.ca](http://www.livegreentoronto.ca) or contact Kristina Hausmanis at [khausma@toronto.ca](mailto:khausma@toronto.ca); 416-397-0311 or Kyle Leetham at [kleetha@toronto.ca](mailto:kleetha@toronto.ca); 416-397- 5746.

**3. CAMH Redevelopment Project, Kama Lee and Yuri Ma, 416-535-8501 x3524 x3248**

CAMH is Canada's largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital. Programs include clinical care, research, education, policy development and health promotion. The CAMH Redevelopment Project will convert the 27-acre property on Queen Street West to a site with new CAMH facilities, shops, residences, businesses, parks and through-streets. There are three phases to the project.

The first phase was completed in 2008: it improved washrooms and program spaces.

The second phase includes:

- an intergenerational wellness centre for the CAMH's Child, Youth and Family and Geriatric Mental Health Programs. The Centre will include Canada's first full service 12-bed inpatient program dedicated to youth with both mental illness and addiction issues. (Contact Christina Bartha for the Youth, and Family Program at christina\_bartha@camh.net or 416-535-8501 ext. 4416),
- the CAMH Gateway Building and the client-run "Out of This World Café",
- the Utilities and Parking Building, which will also include space for meeting, client assessments and a family support centre,
- roads, sidewalks and boulevards, and
- the first non-CAMH building comprising a mix of retail and affordable residential units.

The third phase includes

- the Centre for Discovery and Knowledge Exchange which will house CAMH's research and education staff, and
- a new Client Care Building, which will also include the Queen Street Childcare Centre.

New buildings combining retail, office, and residential uses will complete the redevelopment of the Queen Street site.

Many 'green' elements have been incorporated including:

- a 3,000-square-foot green roof on the first phase,
- a partial green roof plus white roofs in phase two,
- three buildings currently under construction will achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, and
- Green spaces for the public and exclusive to clients.

For more information please visit [www.transforminglives.ca](http://www.transforminglives.ca).

#### **4. Housing Policy Overview, Wellesley Institute, Michael Shapcott, 416-972-1010 x231**

The Wellesley Institute is a Toronto-based non-profit and non-partisan research and policy institute. It focuses on developing research and community-based policy solutions to the problems of urban health and health disparities.

Recognizing that adequate, affordable housing is a key social determinant of health, and that healthy and inclusive neighbourhoods reduce health disparities and create sustainable environments for all citizens, Michael provided a brief overview of the historical involvement of the federal government in affordable housing, the current status and future prospects.

The Federal Government began playing a key role in the housing sector at the end of WWII. The majority of the policy and programs favoured home buyers: there was also a component of affordable rental (social) housing. Federal support for social housing has significantly declined in the last two decades. In 1996, the government began transferring the administration of federal social housing programs to provinces and territories. It is expected that all funding agreements with the Federal Government for social housing will expire by 2032.

Although the current housing policy landscape may appear bleak, there are some positive policy opportunities including:

#### **“In From the Margins”**

Canada’s Senate has unanimously adopted this comprehensive, 283 page report that calls on the federal government to implement a national housing plan, poverty reduction strategy and other measures on income, health, education and training. *In From the Margins* sets out 74 practical recommendations from housing and homelessness to incomes and employment, plus health, education and training.

#### **Bill C-304**

This Act is also known as the *Secure, Adequate, Accessible and Affordable Housing Act* which requests that a National Housing Strategy be established and that this strategy:

- respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to adequate housing,
- ensure the cost of housing does not compromise an individual’s ability to meet other basic needs, including food, clothing and access to health care services, education and recreational activities, and shall provide financial assistance for those who are otherwise unable to afford rental housing,
- include incentives for affordable rental housing,
- include not-for-profit rental housing projects, mixed income, not-for-profit housing cooperatives, special needs housing, and housing that allows seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible, and
- include housing for the homeless.

## **“Right at Home”**

The Ontario Human Rights Commission’s (OHRC) report “Right at Home: Report on the consultation on human rights and rental housing in Ontario”, which recommends:

- The Government of Canada adopt a national housing strategy, in consultation with provincial, territorial and municipal governments,
- The Government of Ontario, along with provincial and territorial governments, call on the Government of Canada to adopt a national housing strategy,
- All levels of government work together to integrate housing rights into comprehensive and coordinated poverty reduction strategies, and
- Government expand measures to help housing providers meet the requirements of inclusive design and accommodation.

Progress requires the action of all levels of government. The OHRC has also developed a policy on human rights and rental housing in Ontario.

## **Housing as a Human Right Charter case**

A coalition of social welfare groups along with former and current homeless individuals have launched a Charter challenge. If successful, it would compel the Federal and Ontario governments to provide affordable housing for those who are homeless or impoverished by the cost of putting a roof over their heads. The individuals seek a Court declaration that Canada and Ontario have violated their rights under section 7 and section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by creating and maintaining conditions that lead to and sustain homelessness and inadequate housing.

For links to reports mentioned above and other work of the Wellesley Institute, go to their website at [www.wellesleyinstitute.ca](http://www.wellesleyinstitute.ca).

## **5. New Business/Announcements**

- **Summer Plan, SSHA, Michele Connell, 416-397-4164**  
See handout
- **Resources Exist for Networking and Training (RENT), EYET, Janet Fairfield, 416-686-3390 x9989**  
RENT is hosting a Rental Housing Forum and the Landlordconnect Semi-Annual Summer Networking Lunch on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at 947 Queen Street East. To register log on at [www.housingworkers.ca](http://www.housingworkers.ca) or contact Janet at [program@housingworkers.ca](mailto:program@housingworkers.ca).
- **G20 Summit Planning for Vulnerable People, Gord Tanner, SSHA, 416-397-4210**  
The G20 Summit will take place June 26- 27 in downtown Toronto. Details of the security zones are available at <http://www.g8-g20isu.ca/latest-recentes-eng.htm>.

Current plans include:

- The Toronto Employment and Social Services office at Metro Hall will be closed for the week of June 21. Clients are being advised and signage will direct the public to alternate locations for service.
- Streets to Homes Outreach Workers are engaging with people living in the area around the Summit venue to encourage and assist them to find housing. Additional shifts of S2H Outreach Workers will be on the job during Summit week.
- Police Officers will have hand-out cards with info about services for people who are street-involved.
- Regular drop-in services will continue as there are no City-funded drop-ins or shelters in the security zone. Additional drop-in hours have been arranged at 3 drop in locations:

- Salvation Army Gateway 107 Jarvis St. 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.,
  - St. Christopher House Meeting Place, 588 Queen St. W. 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.,
  - Youthlink Inner City, 7 Vanauley St. 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. (youth under 25).
- Regular shelter services will be available at 57 locations in the City.
- The Assessment and Referral Centre (ARC) at 67 Adelaide St. E. will as usual for street respite from 8 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to assist with shelter access and other services. On June 26 and June 27 the ARC will be open 24 hours a day. 200 additional shelter beds can be added to the shelter system if necessary. Information and support is also available 24 hours a day at 1-877-338-2298.

During the Summit (June 26 and 27), if issues arise for which you need assistance, please call 3-1-1 at any time. Operators will be able to get in touch with staff from Shelter, Support and Housing Administration 24 hours a day starting at 9 a.m. Thursday, June 24 and continuing until 8 a.m. Monday, June 28.

The City has created a website for current information about G20 at <http://www.toronto.ca/G20/>.

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

**9:15 am**

**Location: Fife House**

**490 Sherbourne St.**

**Main Floor Amenity Room**