

April 24, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Affordable Housing Committee

From: Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, Chair

Re: Support for Extension of Federal Housing and Homelessness Programs

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I am writing to request the Committee's support for a motion in support of the extension of existing federal housing and homelessness programs and to call on the Federal government to commit to developing a long-term housing strategy.

As you are aware, key federal housing initiatives will expire within the next 12 months unless there are renewed commitments from the Federal government. A renewal of existing Federal programs will help to engage and further investments by Provincial and Territorial governments.

In the last number of months there have been new housing and homelessness advocacy efforts by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Provincial and Territorial Ministers. Please find attached the Jan. 23, 2008 Communique from FCM calling for "A National Action Plan to End Homelessness and Deliver Affordable Housing", and the April 2, 2008 News Release from the Provincial and Territorial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Housing.

To support the housing advocacy of FCM, the Ministers, and other organizations across the country, I am asking the Committee to endorse the following motion:

"That Toronto City Council support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Provincial and Territorial Ministers in urging immediate action by the federal government to extend its financial contribution to affordable housing and homeless programs beyond March 31, 2009; including the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Affordable Housing Program, the Affordable Housing Trust Funds, the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, and to begin work on a long term, predictable and sustainable housing strategy for Canada."

Sincerely,

Giorgio Mammoliti  
Chair, Affordable Housing Committee