



## STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

### 2009 Federal Homelessness Funding: Update #3 on Negotiation of a New Federal Agreement and Transition to the New Program

<b>Date:</b>	January 26, 2009
<b>To:</b>	City Council
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### **SUMMARY**

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A staff report approved by Community Development and Recreation Committee at its meeting on January 12, 2009 authorized the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to report directly to the next meeting of Council if new information concerning 2009 federal homelessness funding becomes available.

On December 30, 2008 the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, wrote all provinces and territories confirming that the federal government will extend funding for the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI), the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) at current levels for two years (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011) and will maintain annual funding for federal housing and homelessness programming for five years (until March 31, 2014).

#### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact as a result of this report

#### **DECISION HISTORY**

The report, entitled “2009 Federal Homelessness Funding: Authority to Negotiate a New Federal Agreement and Manage the Transition to the New Program”, was approved by Council at its meeting of December 1, 2 and 3, 2008. It was necessary because the current two-year Homelessness Partnering Strategy is scheduled to end on March 31, 2009. The report, dated October 16, 2008, was approved by Budget Committee at its meeting of October 24, 2008 and by the Executive Committee at its meeting on

November 10, 2008. The report can be accessed at  
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-16085.pdf>)

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

In December 2006 the federal government announced the creation of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, a new two-year homelessness funding program replacing the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), which had been in existence since 2000.

On December 20, 2007, a contribution agreement was executed with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSD) for a total allocation of \$34,592,778 for the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2009. HPS-funded community service programs end on March 31, 2009. An early commitment from the new federal government to renewal of funding for homelessness programming is urgently required to ensure no gaps in service. Council approved use of the Social Housing Reserve Fund to maintain services until Jun 30, 2009, in the event that HRSD did not have funding in place before the end of March 31, 2009.

## **COMMENTS**

On October 30, 2008 Diane Finley was appointed as the new Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD), responsible for federal homelessness programming.

The HRSD website states that “On September 4, 2008 the Government of Canada decided to set aside funding for housing and homelessness programs at \$387.9 million per year for five years to March 31, 2014.”

The Throne Speech, which opened the fortieth session of Parliament on November 18, 2008, included the following statement: “Our Government will extend the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and help more Canadians find affordable housing.”

On December 30, 2008 Minister Finley wrote all provinces and territories confirming that the federal government will extend funding for AHI, RRAP and HPS for two years and that funding will be maintained for federal housing and homelessness programming for five years.

While no correspondence has yet been received by the City, federal staff confirmed with Ontario municipal representatives during a conference call on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 the details of the funding extension. As well, the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association received a letter from Minister Finley confirming the funding extension.

On the conference call, federal staff indicated the desire to have all agreements in place by April 1, 2009 so that there are no gaps in service

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## **SIGNATURE**

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