

## Update on the Special Housing Working Group

<b>Date:</b>	May 16, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Affordable Housing Committee
<b>From:</b>	Special Housing Working Group
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	AFS 15547 – Special Housing Working Group - Update

### SUMMARY

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This report provides an update on the Special Housing Working Group established by City Council to consider alternatives to the sale of 619 Toronto Community Housing single-family homes and strategies to address the capital repair backlog and to engage the federal and provincial governments in meeting Toronto's affordable housing needs.

In the 77 days since it was established, the Special Housing Working Group has completed the first phase of its three-phase Work Plan. The Group is currently in the second phase and is continuing its consultation process with the public.

### Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

### DECISION HISTORY

At its March 5, 6 and 7, 2012 meeting, City Council deferred the sale of 619 single-family homes by Toronto Community Housing. Council established a Special Housing Working Group to review the issue and report to Executive Committee on September 10, 2012.

At the same meeting, City Council approved the sale of 56 vacant Toronto Community Housing homes.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX17.1>

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

On February 17, 2012, Executive Committee considered the staff report, *Securing Funding to Repair Toronto Community Housing's Multi-Residential Portfolio: Sale of Toronto Community Housing Stand-Alone Units*. This report recommended the sale of 675 properties.

The staff report prompted significant attention and concern from Torontonians. Some 117 people had registered to depute and more than 100 written communications from private, public, and community organizations and individuals were received by the Committee.

Executive Committee recommended the sale of 56 vacant Toronto Community Housing single-family homes and established a Special Housing Working Group.

## COMMENTS

This report provides an update on the Special Housing Working Group established by City Council on March 5, 6, 7, 2012 to consider alternatives to the sale of 619 Toronto Community Housing single-family homes and strategies to address the capital repair backlog and to engage the federal and provincial governments in meeting Toronto's affordable housing needs.

In the 77 days since its approval, the Working Group has completed the first phase of its three-phase Work Plan. The Group is currently in the second phase and is continuing its consultation process with the public.

In Phase One, the Working Group established its membership, approved its Mandate, adopted Roles and Responsibilities, adopted a Work Plan and held its first public meeting. A Staff Project Team led by the Affordable Housing Office was established to support the mandate of the Working Group.

The Working Group was publically announced on April 3, 2012. Its membership is comprised of:

- Councillor Ana Bailão, Chair;
- Alan Redway - former Conservative MP and cabinet minister and former Chair of the Daily Bread Food Bank;
- Jim Pimblett –Management Consultant and former Executive Assistant to Prime Minister Paul Martin; and,
- Bud Purves – Chair, Toronto Community Housing Corporation Board.

The first public meeting took place Monday, April 16. Members approved the Mandate, adopted its Roles and Responsibilities and Work Plan, and reviewed opportunities to consult with the public.

Approximately 30 members of the public attended. Meeting documents, including the Mandate (Appendix A), Roles and Responsibilities (Appendix B) and Work Plan (Appendix C), are attached.

During Phase One, the Affordable Housing Office created a link on its website to inform the public of the Working Group and its activities. A dedicated email address, [yourvoice@toronto.ca](mailto:yourvoice@toronto.ca) was created to encourage public feedback and facilitate ideas for consideration by the Working Group.

On Friday, April 27, Working Group members were briefed by the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, and the Director, Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Relations, Toronto Community Housing, on the report, *Securing Funding to Repair Toronto Community Housing's Multi-Residential Portfolio: Sale of Toronto Community Housing Stand-Alone Units* considered by City Council at its meeting on March 5, 6, 7, 2012. The List of Briefing Materials is attached as Appendix D.

The Special Housing Working Group is now in Phase Two of its Work Plan. Highlights include:

1. A ***Tenant Survey*** to be sent to the tenants who live in the homes proposed for sale. The survey is scheduled to be completed in July.
2. A ***Survey of Non-Profit Housing Organizations*** to determine their interest and capacity to purchase any of the homes proposed for sale. The survey is scheduled to take place in July.
3. An ***Ideas Forum*** to generate and highlight promising ideas from housing experts and stakeholders on engaging the federal and provincial governments in a long-term strategy and funding for social housing, how to best address the backlog of repairs and to solicit alternatives to the sale of the single-family homes. The Ideas Forum is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 20.
4. A ***Suggestions for Action Event*** for invited organizations to present and discuss proposals with members of the Working Group. A date for the event is under consideration.

Phase Three of the Work Plan, the preparation of and consultation on the final report, is scheduled to begin after the consultation process is completed. The final report is scheduled to be considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting on September 10, 2012.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Special Housing Working Group is working within a short time frame, with only 112 days remaining before the report is to be completed for the Executive Committee. As a result, the Working Group has adopted a Three-Phase Work Plan to ensure that its efforts over the next three months are focussed and solution-based.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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On behalf of the Special Housing Working Group  
Councillor Ana Bailão  
Chair