TORONTO CITY CLERK

Clause embodied in Report No. 1 of the Community Services Committee, as adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto at its meeting held on February 13, 14 and 15, 2002.

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Federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI): Allocations for Homeless Programs and Services, Community Planning and Research, and Small Capital Improvements

(City Council on February 13, 14 and 15, 2002, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Community Services Committee recommends the adoption of the following report (December 21, 2001) from the Acting Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services:

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to recommend the allocation of Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) funds for small capital improvements, homeless programs and services, and community planning and research projects.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

This report recommends approval of $5,472,857.00 for small capital improvements, homeless programs and services, and community planning and research projects (including appeals and contingency funds) to cashflow between March 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003. Funding for all SCPI initiatives is recovered from the Federal Government through Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), and, as such, represents no net cost to the City of Toronto budget.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

(1) up to $3,382,811.00 from the SCPI Small Capital Improvements envelope be allocated to 39 organizations for 45 new projects as recommended in Appendix A of the report;

(2) all recommended proposals involving installation of appliances and equipment, building improvements and modifications are conditional on their meeting all applicable codes and standards and appropriate ownership and/or lease arrangements being in place;

(3) the Acting Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be delegated authority to amend Small Capital Improvement contracts where necessary to cover unforeseen cost increases to small capital projects for a total amount not exceeding $200,000.00 for all amendments;

(4) up to $100,000.00 be set aside for all appeals of Small Capital Improvement recommendations in Appendix A;

(5) up to $500,000.00 from the SCPI Contingency envelope be allocated to the SCPI Small Capital Improvements envelope to cover the funding recommendations;

(6) up to $1,690,046.00 from the SCPI Homeless Programs and Services and Community Planning and Research envelopes be allocated to 30 organizations for 33 new projects as recommended in Appendix B of the report;

(7) up to $100,000.00 be set aside for all appeals of Homeless Programs and Services/ Community Planning and Research recommendations in Appendix B;

(8) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

In December 1999, the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Canada's Co-ordinator on Homelessness, announced the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). Through SCPI, a total of $305 million was made available nation-wide to alleviate and prevent homelessness. Toronto is eligible to receive $53.1 million over three years, ending March 31, 2003. To date, approximately $36.5 million in SCPI funds have been approved.

The Community Plan for Homelessness in Toronto was developed to guide the allocation of SCPI funding. The plan established five main funding envelopes to direct funding from April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2003: Transitional Housing; Emergency Shelters; Small Capital Improvements; Homeless Programs and Services; and Community Planning and Research. This report concerns allocations for new projects under the latter three envelopes.

Comments:

Small Capital Improvements:

The purpose of the Small Capital Improvements (SCI) funding envelope is for capital investments in agencies delivering programs and services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Two Request for Proposal (RFP) processes have been undertaken to fund projects through this envelope. This report recommends projects that were submitted through the second RFP process. These investments take the form of outreach acquisitions, facility acquisitions and building renovations. Service agencies have consistently informed staff, at meetings of the SCPI Community Reference Group (CRG) and in other forums, that this type of funding is much needed and difficult to access from other funding streams.

Small Capital Improvements funding was guided by the Community Plan for Homelessness, and co-ordinated with homeless service planning initiatives and other City-administered funding streams. Eligibility requirements for Small Capital Improvements funding were flexible, with both not-for-profit community agencies and City-run facilities (such as directly-operated hostels) invited to apply. Priority was given to projects that strengthen the existing service infrastructure, improve service conditions for homeless clients, and realize operational cost savings. Projects that support population groups at high risk of homelessness and in geographic areas with less developed service infrastructure were also favoured. In addition, priority was given to projects which create additional beds, or improve the quality of existing beds in shelter facilities. Heating and ventilation systems in facilities that shelter homeless people were also given priority. All of these priorities were stated in the RFP application materials.

The Request for Proposals for Small Capital Improvements was released on September 24, 2001, along with the RFP for Homeless Programs and Services/Community Planning and Research, discussed below. Both RFPs were circulated via post, fax and email to over 1,000 agency contacts and City facilities serving people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This combined approach has simplified the application process for community-based agencies and has allowed staff to ensure funding is well co-ordinated.

All agencies interested in applying for Small Capital Improvements were invited to attend one of two workshops in early October to assist them in the development of their proposals. At these workshops, proposal requirements were explained in detail and agency representatives were given assistance with their individual proposals. Staff were on hand to give presentations and answer questions. The feedback about the approach and content of the sessions was excellent from those attending.

The Small Capital Improvements RFP closed on November 12, 2001. A total of $5,691,152.00 was requested through the RFP, representing 66 projects from 57 organizations. Proposals were reviewed by teams consisting of staff from Shelter, Housing and Support, Social Development, Facilities and Real Estate, and Access and Equity, along with external representatives from Human Resources Development Canada, the United Way, and Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training. Review teams were knowledgeable about the range of funding streams available for homelessness and related services. They assessed proposals according to the funding priorities described above and a pre-determined set of evaluation criteria. Staff with technical expertise conducted site visits where additional information was required.

A total of $3,382,811.00 million is recommended for Small Capital Improvement funding in response to the latest RFP. Forty-five projects from 39 organizations are recommended for funding, subject to stipulated conditions for some projects, as described in Appendix A. Of the projects recommended, 4 are outreach acquisitions, 10 are facility acquisitions, 22 are building improvements, and 9 are a combination of acquisitions and building improvements. Outreach acquisitions include purchases such as vans and communications equipment; facility acquisitions include purchases such as laundry and kitchen appliances, furniture, lockers; and building improvements include renovations to washrooms, laundry rooms, kitchens and other program space and improvements to heating and ventilation systems. The projects recommended are considered beyond regular building maintenance and repair.

The Small Capital Improvements envelope, as described in the Community Plan for Homelessness, was 10 percent of the total available SCPI allocation, or $5.3 million. With the approved projects from the last RFP process, the recommended projects from this RFP process, and the contingency fund for unforeseen small capital cost overruns, the total amount to be allocated is up to $5.8 million. This envelope will be supplemented with funds from the SCPI contingency envelope in order to fund the recommendations made in this report. The SCPI contingency envelope was designed to serve this function.

Homeless Programs and Services/Community Planning and Research:

The purpose of the Homeless Programs and Services envelope is to support projects that provide services or conduct other activities that alleviate or prevent homelessness. The Community Planning and Research envelope is designed to build experience, expertise and connections in the community and to create more and better partnerships to address homelessness in Toronto. Since the goals of the Homeless Programs and Services envelope and the Community Planning and Research envelope are similar, a single RFP was issued for both. As well, research proposals were encouraged to address priorities in the Shelter, Housing and Support Research Plan.

The Homeless Programs and Services/Community Planning and Research RFP was released on September 24, along with the Small Capital Improvements RFP. Priority was given to projects that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of existing services, build agency capacity, and facilitate new collaborative approaches. Projects that support population groups at high risk of homelessness and in geographic areas with less developed service infrastructure were also favoured. In all cases, efforts were made to ensure activities of new projects would avoid duplication of existing work. To be eligible for funding, proposals had to demonstrate a plan for completion by March 2003, the end date of the SCPI program.

In addition to these overall priorities, other considerations were used to assess projects. Staff have been working with the drop-in sector to identify gaps in service and to ensure services are available where they are needed. This review has informed the evaluation of SCPI proposals coming forward from this sector. All proposals for street outreach services were assessed against the eligibility criteria for allocations under the new Provincial Off the Streets Into Shelter program. The Division is currently reviewing the Housing Help sector. Until this review is completed, projects in this sector were not considered a priority for funding.

Responding to this RFP was a two-staged process: an Expression of Interest, followed by a full proposal. Suggested by the SCPI Community Reference Group, this process was introduced to maximize the effective use of time and resources invested by community agencies in applying for SCPI funding.

In the first stage, proponents submitting an Expression of Interest were asked to briefly outline their experience serving the target clients, their proposed project, their proposed partners, and an estimate of the cost of the project. Submissions for this phase were due on October 12. A total of 59 organizations submitted 78 Expressions of Interest requesting an estimated total of approximately $6 million.

Submissions were reviewed by teams consisting of staff from Shelter, Housing and Support, Social Development, and Access and Equity, along with external representatives from Human Resources Development Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, the United Way, and Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training. Review teams assessed proposals according to the funding priorities described above and a pre-determined set of evaluation criteria.

From these submissions, review teams selected a short list of 36 Expressions of Interest from 32 organizations for projects that best fit the priorities of the funding envelopes. Organizations with short-listed Expressions of Interest were then invited to submit full proposals for their projects. Two workshops were held to help these organizations develop their proposals, with staff on hand to answer questions. Follow-up clinics, where applicants were assisted on an individual basis, were also accessed by most short-listed organizations. The full proposal submissions were required to include detailed descriptions of the organizations' experience, their project's objectives, outputs and outcomes, the workplan and budget and partners in the project.

Full proposals were due on November 26, and review teams were assembled to evaluate them. Altogether, 36 full proposals were submitted, requesting a total $2,482,132.00 in funding. Of these, 33 proposals from 30 organizations requesting a total of $1,690,046.00 are recommended for funding. The range of funded activities include direct services, action research, staff/board/volunteer training, local public education activities and needs assessments, analysis of system accessibility and organizational collaboration.

Adjustments to Requested Amounts:

For some projects, the funding requested by agencies and the funding recommended may differ. Recommended amounts reflect downward adjustments for a variety of reasons, including project costs too high for the activity, funding requested for items that are ineligible or considered inappropriate, only part of the proposed project recommended for funding, full amount of GST requested by an agency eligible for a GST rebate, and high or unnecessary audit costs incorporated in the budget. Recommended amounts can reflect upward adjustments when requested amounts reflect an underestimate of the full project cost. In all cases, the recommended amount reflects the maximum funding eligible to the agency. If the full allocation is not required for the intended purposes, the funds will not be flowed to the agency.

Working With Federal Funding Partners:

As part of the National Homeless Initiative, of which SCPI is one part, federal funding administered directly by Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC) is available separately for projects that serve homeless youth (the HRDC Youth Homeless SCPI funding stream). Staff have worked with federal representatives to co-ordinate funding between this funding source and the RFPs discussed in this report. HRDC staff have reviewed all the youth-related proposals submitted in the RFP processes described above, and will recommend 12 Small Capital Improvement proposals requesting $719,967.00 for funding through their youth homelessness funding stream, to be approved by the Federal Minister for Homelessness. This will ensure that projects for youth are co-ordinated and will free up City-administered SCPI funds for other City funding priorities. Staff have been assured by HRDC that the likelihood of approval of these proposals is excellent, but there remains the possibility that the recommended projects will not be approved federally.

Appeals:

As in the past, the Community Services Grants Appeals Sub-Committee will hear appeals. Up to $100,000.00 is recommended to be set aside for all appeals of Small Capital Improvements approvals. Agencies not approved for funding, or recommended for partial funding, will be notified of the Community Services Grants Appeals Sub-Committee meeting on April 11, 2002, and given instructions on how to appeal, should they desire.

Similarly, up to $100,000.00 is recommended to be set aside for appeals of Homeless Programs and Services and Community Planning and Research approvals. Agencies that were short-listed and developed full proposals in the HPS/CPR Request for Proposals process will be eligible for appeals. Those agencies not recommended by the Community Services Committee for funding, or those recommended for partial funding, will be notified of the Community Services Grants Appeals Sub-Committee meeting on February 20, 2002, and given instructions on how to appeal, should they desire.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

Funded agencies will be required to sign service agreements that articulate outcomes specific to their project. Data on these outcomes, in conjunction with regular reports on progress and cash flow, will be used to monitor and evaluate projects. As well, data for performance measures that are consistent across funding streams, and that are required by HRDC, will be required from all agencies. This information will be used to assess the impact of SCPI in Toronto, and by HRDC to evaluate the impact of SCPI across Canada.

Conclusions:

The Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) continues to be a valuable funding source for supporting the City's and the community's work to prevent and alleviate homelessness in Toronto. Despite being a short-term program and not allowing the construction of permanent affordable housing, a variety of important initiatives have been funded or are recommended for funding using federal dollars at no net cost to the City.

This report recommends $3,382,811.00 in SCPI funding for 39 organizations to carry out 45 Small Capital Improvement projects. From the Homeless Programs and Services, and Community Planning and Research, funding envelopes, the report recommends $1,690,046.00 in SCPI funding for 30 organizations to carry out 33 projects.

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List of Attachments:

Appendix A – Small Capital Improvements Recommended Proposals January 2002
Appendix B – Homeless Programs and Services/Community Planning and Research Recommended Proposals January 2002
Appendix C – Agency Summary Sheets - Small Capital Improvements
Appendix D – Agency Summary Sheets – Homeless Programs and Services/Community Planning and Research

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Appendix A

Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)
Small Capital Improvements
Summary of 2002 Funding Recommendations

	Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
1	416 Drop-In Centre (Friends of Shopping Bag Ladies)	$104,174	$104,174
2	519 Church Street Community Centre	$347,838	$150,000
3	Agincourt Community Services Association	$42,078	$42,078
4	All Saints' Church-Community Centre	$141,401	$190,000
5	Anishnawbe Health Toronto	$6,551	$6,352
6	Canadian Mothercraft Society	$55,324	$0
7	Canadian Red Cross Society, Toronto Region	$174,434	$0
8	Canrise Non-Profit Housing Inc.	$16,896	$0
9	Central Neighbourhood House	$44,611	$40,860
10	Central Toronto Community Health Centres	$24,939	$24,939
11	Central United Church	$116,018	$95,371
12	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)	$99,843	$0
13	Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples	$361,899	$0
14	Christie-Ossington Neighbourhood Centre	$64,141	$55,000
15	City of Toronto	$1,480,964	$1,326,473
16	Clifton Hill Homes Inc.	$32,343	$0
17	COSTI IIAS Immigrant Services	$9,720	$5,525
18	COTA: Comprehensive Rehabilitation & Mental Health Services	$37,443	$36,943
19	Dixon Hall	$90,238	$77,280
20	Emily Stowe Shelter for Women Inc.	$50,000	$50,585
21	Eva's Initiatives	$55,084	$0
22	Foodshare Toronto	$100,000	$20,000
23	Fred Victor Centre	$286,001	$66,106

Organization		Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
24	Good Shepherd Refuge Social Ministries	$17,484	$25,520
25	Homes First Society	$63,059	$57,556
26	Houselink Community Homes	$33,014	$33,014
27	Humewood House Association	$83,750	$0
28	Massey Centre for Women	$234,573	$0
29	Native Child and Family Services of Toronto	$4,194	$0
30	Native Men's Residence	$38,896	$37,712
31	Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto	$106,000	$106,000
32	North York Harvest Food Bank	$50,000	$50,000
33	Open Door Centre & Rooms Registry Inc.	$49,832	$14,495
34	Pape Adolescent Resource Centre	$50,000	$0
35	Redwood Shelter for Abused Women	$150,000	$150,000
36	Regeneration House Inc.	$87,888	$87,888
37	Salvation Army Governing Council in Canada	$78,415	$40,294
38	Sistering	$8,756	$8,756
39	Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Toronto Central Council	$26,448	$25,643
40	Somali Canadian Community Club	$23,601	$16,223
41	St. Margaret's New Toronto Anglican Church	$4,414	$4,414
42	St. Michael's Hospital	$74,750	$0
43	Stonegate Community Health Centre	$7,017	$0
44	Street Haven at the Crossroads	$39,568	$25,000
45	Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood & Family Centre	$94,339	$0
46	Toronto Christian Resource Centre	$90,614	$80,000
47	Toronto Community Hostel	$59,398	$74,006
48	Toronto Friendship Centre Inc.	$14,639	$11,330
49	Warden Woods Community Centre	$24,404	$22,690
50	White Light Hospice and Respite Care Centre	$133,439	$141,375
51	WoodGreen Red Door Family Shelter	$14,929	$3,707
52	World Communities Development Alliance	$46,532	$0
53	Wychwood Open Door Drop In-Centre	$8,204	$7,954
54	YMCA of Greater Toronto	$38,079	$0
55	Yonge Street Mission	$55,668	$0
56	Youthlink	$186,279	$0
57	YWCA of Greater Toronto	$78,566	$67,548
Total		$5,818,686	$3,382,811

Appendix B

Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)

Homeless Programs and Services/Community Planning and Research
Summary of 2002 Funding Recommendations

	Organization Name	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
1	519 Church Street Community Centre	$69,600	$67,200
2	Accommodation Information and Support	$99,622	$98,622
3	Albion Neighbourhood Services	$75,000	$70,265
4	All Saints' Church-Community Centre	$50,000	$0
5	Anduhyaun	$25,000	$0
6	Canadian Red Cross Society, Toronto Region	$125,000	$0
7	Canrise Non-Profit Housing Inc	$50,000	$0
8	Central Neighbourhood House	$150,000	$0
9	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)	$535,168	$129,668
10	Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation	$74,268	$74,268
11	Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples	$75,000	$0
12	Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Inc.	$250,000	$0
13	Christie-Ossington Neighbourhood Centre	$97,545	$69,345
14	Church of the Holy Trinity	$49,679	$0
15	COTA: Comprehensive Rehabilitation & Mental Health Services	$63,940	$29,892
16	Covenant House	$100,000	$0
17	Daily Bread Food Bank	$90,300	$88,000
18	Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood Centre	$75,000	$0
19	Economic Community Starting Centre	$100,000	$0
20	Ernestine's Women's Shelter	$20,270	$20,270
21	Eva's Initiatives	$77,421	$76,421
22	FCJ Hamilton House Refugee Project	$75,000	$51,400
23	Fife House	$175,000	$0
24	Flemingdon Neighbourhood Services	$25,000	$0
25	Fred Victor Centre	$100,000	$0
26	Good Shepherd Refuge Social Ministries	$75,000	$54,509
27	Hispanic Development Council	$50,000	$0
28	Homes First Society	$219,417	$33,654
29	Lakeshore Area Multiservice Project (LAMP)	$37,108	$36,108
30	Learning Enrichment Foundation	$125,000	$0
31	Mixed Company	$25,000	$0

	Organization Name	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
32	Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto	$81,742	$18,000
33	Neighbourhood Link	$100,000	$0
34	Open Door Centre & Rooms Registry Inc.	$64,000	$62,000
35	Out of the Cold Resource Centre Inc	$48,448	$46,948
36	Pape Adolescent Resource Centre	$48,000	$48,000
37	PEACH (Promoting Economic Action and Community Health)	$50,000	$0
38	Progress Place	$75,000	$0
39	reBOOT Canada	$50,000	$0
40	Regent Park Community Health Centre	$50,000	$0
41	Riverdale Housing Action Group	$53,000	$0
42	Ryerson University	$77,450	$77,450
43	Scarborough Housing Help Centre	$102,150	$51,450
44	Sherbourne Health Centre	$176,000	$0
45	Sistering	$28,816	$27,116
46	Somali Family & Child Skills Development Services	$75,000	$0
47	St. Michael's Hospital	$150,000	$150,000
48	Street Haven at the Crossroads	$170,489	$60,494
49	Toronto Christian Resource Centre	$125,000	$0
50	Toronto Community Development Agency	$150,000	$0
51	Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre	$49,443	$26,000
52	Toronto Windfall Clothing Support Service	$68,910	$25,000
53	United Way of Greater Toronto	$67,960	$66,960
54	University of Toronto	$291,353	$64,953
55	White Light Hospice and Respite Care Centre	$150,000	$0
56	Wychwood Open Door Drop In-Centre	$14,423	$14,423
57	YMCA of Greater Toronto	$125,000	$0
58	Yonge Street Mission	$157,010	$28,480
59	Youth Unlimited (Toronto Youth for Christ)	$50,000	$0
60	Youthlink	$24,150	$23,150
Total		$5,832,682	$1,690,046

(A copy of each of Appendices C and D (Agency Summary Sheets), referred to in the foregoing report, was forwarded to all Members of Council with the agenda of the Community Services Committee for its meeting on January 16 and 23, 2002, and a copy thereof is on file in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall.)