



Supplementary Report - Intergovernmental Action to Address Housing and Homelessness Issues

Date: February 26, 2020

To: City Council

From: Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services

Wards: All

SUMMARY

On December 17, 2019, City Council adopted with amendments, report PH11.5 - *HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan*, and requested the City Manager to engage other orders of government to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group with a mandate to develop a joint action plan and secure increased investments to expedite efforts to address housing challenges and homelessness in Toronto.

On February 12, 2019, the Planning and Housing Committee considered item PH.13.6 - *Intergovernmental Action to Address Housing and Homelessness Issues*, and forwarded it to City Council without recommendations due to the absence of a formal commitment from other orders of government to join the Working Group.

This supplementary report provides an update to PH13.6 and identifies the list of senior officials who have recently been assigned to represent the Federal and Provincial governments on the Intergovernmental Working Group. This formal commitment by all orders of government to coordinate efforts is a pivotal first step to addressing housing instability and improving housing outcomes for residents in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services recommends that City Council:

1. receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Creating new affordable housing and preserving the City's existing housing stock will increase the opportunity for lower-income and vulnerable individuals and families, as well as those from equity-seeking groups to access safe, healthy and adequate homes.

Access to good quality, safe, affordable housing is also an important determinant of health and also improves the social and economic status of an individual. Good quality, affordable housing is also the cornerstone of vibrant, healthy neighbourhoods and supports the environmental and economic health of the city, region and country as a whole.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of February 12, 2019, the Planning and Housing Committee considered report PH.13.6 - *Intergovernmental Action to Address Housing and Homelessness Issues*, and forwarded it to City Council without recommendations. The report can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.PH13.6>

At its meeting of December 17, 2019, City Council adopted, with amendments, report PH11.5 – *HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan* and its recommended actions as a strategic framework to guide the City's efforts on housing and homelessness needs over the next 10 years. Through this report, Council also requested staff to meet with Federal and Provincial representatives to develop an immediate six-month action plan to expedite the City's initiatives to address housing challenges and homelessness and report to the Planning and Housing Committee on February 12, 2020 with a progress update. The full recommendations can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.PH11.5>

COMMENTS

Intergovernmental Working Group Membership

The Intergovernmental Working Group will be comprised of the following senior officials:

- **Federal Government** (represented by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) - Mr. Brett Dietrich, Acting Vice-President, Partnerships and Promotions
- **Province of Ontario** – Mr. Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister of Housing
- **City of Toronto** – Ms. Giuliana Carbone, Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services.

The Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services will serve as the Chair for this Working Group and will be supported by senior staff from the Housing Secretariat and the Shelter, Support & Housing Administration Division. It is our understanding that the federal and provincial work group members will also be supported by other senior federal and provincial staff.

Primary Objectives for the Intergovernmental Working Group

Supporting the Delivery of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan

In December 2019, City Council adopted the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan as a blueprint to improve the housing outcomes for some 341,000 households across the city.

The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan established a target of 40,000 new affordable rental homes approvals, including 18,000 units of supportive housing, over the next ten years. It also highlighted that achieving these targets is critical to addressing homelessness and the housing needs of residents across the housing continuum including emergency shelters and transitional housing, social and supportive housing, and affordable and market rental and ownership housing.

As part of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan, City Council requested the Federal and Provincial governments to each commit financial and other resources and tools to:

- continue existing programs to 2030;
- add new and enhanced investments in Toronto; and
- work with the City to better align current and future housing policies, programs and initiatives.

Priority Actions

As a first step to advance intergovernmental coordination and resources as recommended in the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan, development of a six-month plan will be a priority for the Working Group.

This six-month action plan will identify the milestones and required actions to:

- Identify the unaddressed low-income housing support gaps, including those of mental health and addictions, economic insecurity, long-term health issues and any challenge that may contribute to homelessness in Toronto;
- Identify and recommend programs, supports, and services that can be provided on an expedited basis by the appropriate levels of government respective to their jurisdictions but in collaboration with each other to prevent homelessness upstream and provide the current population with accessible options for dignified, stable, secure and supportive housing; and,

- Report on rapid re-housing and other coordinated approaches to quickly move people out of shelters and into permanent housing whenever possible and track performance indicators to demonstrate the effectiveness of this response and incorporate what is learned into next steps.

Next Steps

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group will be scheduled for early March. The terms of reference for this Working Group will be discussed at the first meeting. Government representatives will be expected to bring a whole of government approach and engage other departments and ministries as necessary.

Additionally, regular meetings will be scheduled over the upcoming months and staff will report to the Planning and Housing Committee on June 11, 2020 with an update on the progress of discussions, including actions to-date.

CONTACT

Valesa Faria, Director (Acting), Housing Secretariat, 416-392-0602,
valesa.faria@toronto.ca

Laural Raine, Director, Service System Planning, Shelter Support and Housing Administration, 416-392-0546, laural.raine@toronto.ca

Sandra Rodriguez, Director, Intergovernmental and Agency Relations, City Manager's Office, 416-392-3832, sandra.rodriguez@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Giuliana Carbone
Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Response Letter from Evan Siddall, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, dated February 13, 2020.

Attachment 2 – Response Letter from Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, dated February 25, 2020