



## **RENFREW COUNTY HOUSING CORPORATION**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

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An electronic meeting of the Renfrew County Housing Corporation Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Directors Present: James Brose, Debbi Grills, Ed Jacyno, Kim Love, Cathy Regier, John Reinwald

Regrets: Debbie Robinson

Officers Present: Paul Moreau, Chief Executive Officer  
Laura LePine, Chief Operating Officer

Staff Present: Bruce Beakley, Director of Human Resources  
Craig Kelley, Director of Development & Property  
Lee Perkins, Director of Public Works & Engineering  
Shelley Sheedy, Director of Long-Term Care  
Carol Neill, General Manager, Renfrew County Housing Corporation  
Judy Mulvihill, Manager of Child Care and Early Years Services  
Andrea Patrick, Ontario Works Manager  
Rosalyn Gruntz, Deputy Clerk  
Evelyn VanStarkenbug, Administrative Assistant

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Chair Brose called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The roll was called and no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

### **RESOLUTION NO. RCHC-C-20-09-27**

Moved by Councillor Love

Seconded by Councillor Regier

THAT the minutes of the Renfrew County Housing Corporation Board of Directors meeting held on August 12, 2020 be adopted. CARRIED.

Ms. Neill overviewed the Monthly Report, which is attached as Appendix A.

Ms. Neill advised Committee that of the 81 applications received for RENTCafé, 24 were online application and 54 were paper applications. In September there already has been 17 online applications to date.

Ms. Neill advised Committee that there is very little movement on the Renfrew County Housing Corporation (RCHC) waitlist as there has only been 56 move outs from January to July compared to approximately a 100 move outs in total in 2019. Ms. Neill noted that there are less waitlist applications due to the mass mail out that occurred at the beginning of the year. Applicants who did not respond and reapply were removed from the list. Ms. Neill anticipates that the waitlist will increase over the next few years.

Ms. Neill thanked the Renfrew County Housing Corporation staff for their hard work and willingness to adapt quickly to the extra precautions that are in place due to COVID-19 and still able to get their work completed. Ms. Neill noted that the tenants have also been very patient with staff in getting repairs completed during this unprecedented time.

Ms. Neill advised Committee that further information will be provided at the October meeting with regards to how staff is trying to resolve the rent arrears.

**RESOLUTION NO. RCHC-C-20-09-28**

Moved by Councillor Grills

Seconded by Councillor Reinwald

THAT the Monthly Report attached as Appendix A be approved. CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION NO. RCHC-C-20-09-29**

Moved by Councillor Love

Seconded by Councillor Regier

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held on October 14, 2020. Time 1:13 p.m. CARRIED.



## **SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

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An electronic meeting of the Social Services Committee was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 1:13 p.m., at the County of Renfrew Administration Building, Pembroke, Ontario.

Present were: James Brose, Chair

Committee Members: Debbi Grills, Kim Love, Cathy Regier, John Reinwald

City of Pembroke

Representative: Ed Jacyno

Regrets: Debbie Robinson, Warden

Staff Present: Paul Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
Laura LePine, Director of Social Services  
Bruce Beakley, Director of Human Resources  
Craig Kelley, Director of Development & Property  
Lee Perkins, Director of Public Works & Engineering  
Shelley Sheedy, Director of Long-Term Care  
Carol Neill, General Manager, Renfrew County Housing Corporation  
Judy Mulvihill, Manager of Child Care and Early Years Services  
Andrea Patrick, Ontario Works Manager  
Rosalyn Gruntz, Deputy Clerk  
Evelyn VanStarkenburger, Administrative Assistant

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Chair Brose called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. The roll was called and no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

**RESOLUTION NO. SS-C-20-09-33**

Moved by Councillor Love

Seconded by Councillor Grills

THAT the minutes of the August 12, 2020 and August 26, 2020 meetings be adopted. CARRIED.

Ms. LePine overviewed the Social Services Department Report, which is attached as Appendix A.

Ms. LePine advised Committee that the Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2 Business Case, which was brought forward to the special meeting of Social Services Committee prior to County Council in August, is due to be submitted on Friday, September 11, 2020. Staff is hopeful that the team reviewing the application will approve the funding. Thank you to this Committee for your support in this application.

Ms. LePine overviewed a resolution that was received from the City of St. Catharines in support of the City of Toronto legal challenge of the amendments made under Bill 184 Section 83. She noted that under the current law all evictions and rent arrears must be heard by the Landlord Tenant Board of which some result in a repayment plan. Bill 184 Section 83 would permit the landlord to bypass the hearing process and offer the tenant their own repayment plan.

Ms. LePine advised Committee that the Social Services Management Team has had a wholesome discussion with regards to Section 83 of Bill 184. She noted that in Renfrew County staff deal directly with landlords and tenants by setting up payment plans through the Homelessness Prevention Program for tenants who are in rental arrears. Ms. LePine noted that the rent arrears situation in the City of Toronto is different than what is experienced in the County of Renfrew as most landlords are willing to set up repayment plans to stabilize housing and to help tenants to get back on track. This Amendment is similar to what is currently done within the County of Renfrew when entering into repayment plans. If the legal challenge is successful, this could make significant changes to Section 83.

Ms. LePine advised Committee that staff conducted further research on the Universal Basic Income (UBI); however it is inconclusive. She noted that the UBI is strictly a concept at this time and that it has not been built. Ms. LePine advised that when more information is available this will be brought forward to this Committee again.

**Ontario Works Division**

Ms. Patrick overviewed the Ontario Works Division Report, which is part of the Social Services Department Report.

Ms. Patrick advised Committee that caseload statistics for Ontario Works are lower than last year due in part to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). She noted that this benefit will end next month and she anticipates that the caseloads will rise.

Ms. Patrick advised that between January and July of this year there has been 184 Emergency Assistance applications whereas in 2019 only 28 applications were received during this same timeframe.

**Child Care and Early Years Division**

Ms. Mulvihill overviewed the Child Care and Early Years Division Report, which is part of the Social Services Department Report.

Ms. Mulvihill advised Committee that 75% of their programs are open with 50% of the children attending. She noted that Child Care has increased their staff from 116 to 140 to accommodate the low staff-child ratio numbers, extra cleaning and sanitizing, and the new safety measure that no longer permits staff to move from one room to another.

**RESOLUTION NO. SS-C-20-09-34**

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Councillor Love

THAT the Social Services Committee recommend that County Council support the resolution from the Niagara Region regarding Child Care to request the Government of Ontario to keep funding support for child care as a priority.

CARRIED.

Ms. Mulvihill advised Committee that based on parents deciding to have their children participate in the virtual classroom rather than return to school, the pressures on child care providers is not as significant. She noted staff are starting to build a substantial fee subsidy waitlist. Families are being patient with the slow reopening of child care and ensuring that all health and safety components are abided by. Parents have been very understanding and it has become a real partnership.

**RESOLUTION NO. SS-C-20-09-35**

Moved by Councillor Grills

Seconded by Councillor Love

THAT the Social Services Department Report attached as Appendix A be approved. CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS****City of Toronto Resolution on Bill 184, Section 83**

Ms. LePine advised that the amendments to Bill 184, Section 83 has passed, and the City of Toronto is wanting to bring forward a legal challenge to these amendments. Ms. LePine noted Section 83 speaks to the requirement for the landlord to set up a repayment plan with the tenant when there are rental arrears before bringing the case to the Landlord and Tenant Board. Ms. LePine has concerns with the legal challenge as the situation in Renfrew County may not be the same as in urban areas such as the City of Toronto.

**RESOLUTION NO. SS-C-20-09-36**

Moved by Councillor Reinwald

Seconded by Councillor Grills

THAT staff be directed to develop a position for the County of Renfrew in regards to the City of Toronto and their legal challenge of the amendments made under Bill 184, Section 83; AND FURTHER THAT staff's position be brought forward to this Committee with a recommendation to County Council for consideration. CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION NO. SS-C-20-09-37**

Moved by Councillor Reinwald

Seconded by Councillor Regier

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held on October 14, 2020. Time – 1:56 p.m. CARRIED.