



RENFREW COUNTY HOUSING CORPORATION

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof.
4. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting held on March 17, 2021.
5. Delegations: None at time of mailing.

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7. General Manager's Monthly Report	5
8. New Business.	
9. Closed Meeting – None at time of mailing.	
10. Date of next meeting (Wednesday, May 12, 2021) and adjournment.	

NOTE: (a) Submissions received from the public, either orally or in writing may become part of the public record.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Goal # 1: To inform the Federal and Provincial government on our unique needs so that Renfrew County residents get their “fair share”.

Initiatives:

- (a) Create s strategic communications plan
- (b) Identify and advocate for issues important to the County of Renfrew.

Strategic Plan Goal # 2: Fiscal sustainability for the Corporation of the County of Renfrew and its ratepayers.

Initiatives:

- (a) Commitment from Council supporting principles within the Long-Term Financial Plan
- (b) Establish Contingency Plan to respond to provincial and federal financial pressures and opportunities beyond the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Strategic Plan Goal # 3: Find cost savings that demonstrate our leadership while still meeting community needs.

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- (a) Complete community needs assessment
- (b) With identified partners implement plan to optimize service delivery to the benefit of our residents.

Strategic Plan Goal # 4: Position the County of Renfrew so that residents benefit from advances in technology, to ensure that residents and staff have fair, affordable and reasonable access to technology.

Initiatives:

- (a) Ensure that the County of Renfrew is top of the list for Eastern Ontario Regional Network funding for mobile broadband
- (b) Lobby for secure and consistent radio systems for first responders and government
- (c) Put a County of Renfrew technology strategy in place.

COUNTY OF RENFREW
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RENFREW COUNTY HOUSING CORPORATION

TO: Renfrew County Housing Corporation Board of Directors

FROM: Andrea Patrick, Acting Director of Community Services

DATE: April 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Director's Report

INFORMATION

1. 2020 Unaudited Financial Statements

Attached as Appendix I is a copy of the 2020 Unaudited Financial Statement for the Renfrew County Housing Corporation as at December 31, 2020. Mr. Jeffrey Foss, Director of Corporate Services will be providing an overview at today's meeting.

**COUNTY OF RENFREW
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RENFREW COUNTY HOUSING CORPORATION**

TO: Renfrew County Housing Corporation Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Dombroskie, Acting General Manager

DATE: April 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Monthly Report

INFORMATION

1. Community Housing Portfolio [Strategic Goals 1, 2 & 3]

The Renfrew County Housing Corporation owns 1020 units, which includes 19 apartments, 150 duplexes, and 217 row homes. We provide financial and life stabilization supports for our residents and attend to regular building maintenance as well as capital asset planning to ensure the safety and good condition of our properties. In addition, we are provincially funded to provide Rent Geared to Income Supplements for private market rental units. As of this date, we have 74 agreements with local landlords to provide rent supplements, helping to increase affordable rent options for Renfrew County residents.

Within our role as a Housing Service Manager and in accordance with the Housing Services Act and Regulations, we provide policy guidance, rent geared to income calculations, and flow funding from provincial grants to assist non-profit housing providers with operations and building maintenance. Within Renfrew County there are 5 non-profit housing providers who in total manage 237 rental units.

Community Housing also administers services funded through the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). The Ministry of Municipal Housing and Affairs provides our municipality with an annual CHPI allocation and funding is used to support our community through

programs such as the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), the Affordable Rent Allowance Program, and the Emergency Minor Home Repairs Program.

2. **Community Housing Connections [Strategic Goals 1 & 2]**

Seaway Group (Administration) – This group is comprised of municipal housing service managers from the Counties of Lanark, Prescott-Russell, Leeds and Greenville, Hastings, Renfrew, and the Cities of Kingston and Cornwall. Meetings are held monthly, and information is shared regarding local projects, priorities, and government initiatives regarding the funding of housing and homelessness interventions.

Seaway Group (Maintenance) – This group is comprised of municipal housing maintenance supervisors from the Counties of Lanark, Prescott-Russell, Leeds and Greenville, Hastings, Renfrew, and the Cities of Kingston and Cornwall. Meetings are held monthly, and information is shared regarding local operations and capital projects.

Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) Housing and Homelessness Network – This group is comprised of municipal housing service managers across Ontario. Meetings are held monthly or bi-monthly. OMSSA is a liaison and advocate between the municipalities and the provincial and federal levels of government connected to housing and homelessness initiatives and funding.

Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) – This association is an advocate for matters concerning housing and homelessness and provides municipal housing service managers and non-profit housing providers with training opportunities, interpretation regarding regulations, as well as regional meetings to network and receive sector updates.

Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT) – The Supervisor of Technical Services is an executive member of the Renfrew County branch and a certified member since 2008. Participating within this association provides networking and professional development opportunities that compliment capital development and planning work connected to our Rent Geared to Income housing units.

Renfrew County Green Operations and Asset Management Committee –

The Supervisor of Technical Services is a member of this local committee that is comprised of several County of Renfrew staff. The purpose of this committee is to plan for capital asset management, review operational procedures (with an emphasis on energy utilization) and to identify areas for operational improvements. The group meets quarterly.

County of Renfrew Accessibility Committee – The Supervisor of Technical Services is a member of this local committee that is comprised of several County of Renfrew staff. The group meets quarterly to ensure that accessibility requirements are understood, planned for, and implemented.

3. Ontario’s By-Name List and Homeless Enumeration [Strategic Goal 1 (b)]

Attached as Appendix RCHC-I is correspondence dated March 19, 2021 from Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, regarding Ontario’s By-Name List approach and homeless enumeration in 2021. Also included are the updated Minister’s Directives to Service Managers and the Service Manager Guidelines: By-Name List Implementation and Homeless Enumeration (Guidelines) that set out the provincial approach for By-Name Lists and homeless enumeration.

On March 12, 2021, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing provided a directive requesting Service Managers to organize and implement a method to collect information about people experiencing homelessness through two ways: a by-name list and a point-in-time count.

The By-Name List will include the names and contact information of people experiencing homelessness who would like to receive assistance from the Service Manager to find housing services and supports.

The Point-in-Time Count will provide demographic information regarding people experiencing homelessness on a specific day.

We are in the very early stages of planning for homelessness enumeration and in the upcoming months will connect and collaborate with the community regarding this important project. Through the collection of aggregate data and conversations with both community partners and those

experiencing homelessness, we will continue to grow our understanding of the community's needs and develop approaches to provide housing supports and options.

4. **Average Market Rent [Strategic Goal 1 (b)]**

Average Market Rent (AMR) is calculated by the Canada Housing and Mortgage Company based on Rental Market Survey that they tabulate and is used to determine eligibility for rental allowances. To qualify for the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Rent Allowance, the applicant must be renting a home with rent at or below the amount specified AMR and must meet the same financial eligibility requirements as Rent Geared to Income (RGI) tenants. The AMR rates set for 2021 (that come into effective July 1, 2021) are equivalent to the 2020 rates.

Attached as Appendix RCHC-II are the 2021 allowable rent tables for apartments.

5. **Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) [Strategic Goal 1 (b)]**

The Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) is a portable housing benefit, meaning that eligible recipients can continue to qualify regardless of where they move in Ontario. Eligibility is determined based on income and family size and recipients must have a rent amount that is deemed to be affordable per the AMR.

The County of Renfrew received notification from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing during December 2019 regarding allocations for the 2020-2021 (\$204,099) and 2021-2022 (\$267,431) fiscal years. During 2020-2021, 115 people who live in Renfrew County received COHB funding. Applicants from 2020-2021 that continue to qualify for the COHB are included in the accounting for our second-year budget, for 2021-2022 there is \$63,331 in COHB funding available for new applicants. Applications for the second-year funding opened effective March 1, 2021 and at this time the community need exceeds the available grant spots (estimated at 15 to 20 new applications).

Attached as Appendix RCHC-III is the December 20, 2019 COHB Allocation Letter from the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Attached as Appendix RHC IV is the 2021-2022 COHB Estimated Take-Up of 2021-2022 Annual Planning Allocations.



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof.
4. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting held on March 17, 2021.
5. Delegations - None at the time of mailing.
6. Community Services Department Page
 - (a) Department Report 3
 - (b) Ontario Works Division Report 8
 - (c) Child Care and Early Years Division Report 16
7. New Business.
8. Closed Meeting – None at time of mailing.
9. Date of next meeting (Wednesday, May 12, 2021) and adjournment.

NOTE: (a) **County Council: Wednesday, April 28, 2021.**

(b) Submissions received from the public, either orally or in writing may become part of the public record.

Strategic Plan

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COUNTY OF RENFREW
COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Andrea Patrick, Acting Director of Community Services
DATE: April 14, 2021
SUBJECT: Department Report

INFORMATION

1. Respecting Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction in Niagara

Attached as Appendix I is a resolution from Niagara Region dated March 4, 2021 regarding Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction in Niagara.

2. 2020 Unaudited Financial Statements

Attached as Appendix II is a copy of the 2020 Unaudited Financial Statement for the Community Services Department as at December 31, 2020. Mr. Jeffrey Foss, Director of Corporate Services will be providing an overview at today's meeting.

3. Ontario Works Division Report

Attached as Appendix III is the Ontario Works Division Report prepared by Ms. Andrea Patrick, Manager of Ontario Works, providing an update on activities.

4. Child Care and Early Years Division Report

Attached as Appendix IV is the Child Care and Early Years Division Report, prepared by Ms. Judy Mulvihill, Manager of Child Care and Early Years Services, providing an update on activities.

ONTARIO WORKS REPORT

Prepared by: Andrea Patrick, Manager of Ontario Works

Prepared for: Community Services Committee

April 14, 2021

INFORMATION**1. Homelessness Prevention Program [Strategic Plan Goal # 3 (a)]**

Number of Approved Applications in February 2021	Monthly Expenditure
103	\$137,079.71

Homeless Population by Age Range

Month	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
January 2021	4	9	7	3	5	1	29
February 2021	3	11	7	4	5	1	31
March 2021	1	8	4	4	6	1	24

2. Virtual Mental Health and Addiction Walk-in Counselling Clinic [Strategic Plan # 3 (b)]

Attached as Appendix OW-I is an announcement regarding the launch of the Renfrew County Collaborative E-Walk-in Counselling Clinic (WICC). This new service is intended to provide free, same-day single-session mental health and addiction counselling for children, youth, adults, and families in Renfrew County. Numerous healthcare providers and agencies in the region have come together to share their mental health and addictions resources to support residents who need immediate help. This service is being implemented gradually and the current hours of operation are Thursdays from 11:30 am–6 pm.

3. Community Connections [Strategic Plan # 3 (b)]

Ontario Works provides emergency financial assistance, ongoing monthly financial assistance, and life stabilization supports for vulnerable residents.

Ontario Works staff are highly knowledgeable about government benefit programs and other services in the areas of employment, education, legal, and health. Staff provide individualized and person-centered service to help recipients navigate first steps and ongoing life stabilization plans. Through strong collaborative working relationships with community agencies, staff make beneficial and timely referrals to connect individuals with the additional services they need to achieve greater stability and move forward with their lives. The following is a list of some of the key committees Ontario Works staff participate in which help form the community's social safety net:

Local

- **Human Trafficking Response Committee (Victim Services of Renfrew County)** – works collaboratively to identify and support victims of human trafficking
- **Dad's Central Committee (Family and Children's Services)** – promotes the importance of male caregiver involvement in children's lives
- **Moving on Mental Health and Addictions Planning Table (Phoenix Centre for Children and Families)** – creating a more efficient, effective, and client-oriented mental health and addiction system for Renfrew County
- **General Arts and Science Program Advisory Committee (Algonquin College)** – provides feedback on how the program can be modified and improved to better meet community needs
- **Homelessness Prevention Partnership** – Ontario Works, Community Mental Health Services, Ontario Provincial Police, and The Grind Pembroke work together to meet the needs of homeless individuals across Renfrew County
- **Ontario Works/Ontario Disability Support Program Joint Client Advisory Committee** – provides an opportunity for clients to provide direct feedback on ways to improve services
- **3 DOORS (Family and Children's Services)** – Community Services and the Renfrew County Legal Clinic participate in an annual "Home Sense" group that provides information on housing, financial programs, and legal rights for youths aged 16-21 that aims to promote healthy, safe, and responsible lifestyle choices

- **Emergency Services Volunteer Planning Subgroup** – health and service agencies working collaboratively to identify vulnerable individuals in our community and ensure they have access to vaccination clinics
- **United Way Virtual Response Table (United Way)** – social services agencies, health authorities, and business partners share information regarding pandemic response

Provincial

- **Social Assistance Mental Wellness Committee** – promotes and provides feedback on the Ministry and Morneau Shepell’s joint initiative providing recipients with free internet and phone-based cognitive behavioural therapy services to help manage anxiety and depression
- **Supportive Approaches to Innovative Learning (SAIL)** – identifies training and learning opportunities in human services to help staff understand barriers and better support clients in life stabilization
- **Provincial-Municipal Human Services Collaborative** – co-chaired by the Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association to work on transformational initiatives in human services
- **Central Intake Joint Project Team** – provides input and feedback to the Ministry regarding the central intake prototype to help inform the roll out of the provincial recovery and renewal strategy
- **Business Technology Network** – delivers strategic advice to the Ministry on social assistance technology improvements
- **Seaway Emergency Social Services Network** – led by the Ministry’s Emergency Management Unit, this network provides information and coordination regarding available supports during a disaster
- **Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) Employment Income Network** – this group has representatives from all 46 services manager areas and 10 District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) to discuss employment and other Ontario Works related issues
- **Provincial-Municipal Social Assistance and Employment Committee (PMSAEC)** – has been established to provide ongoing and integrated engagement between municipal and provincial partners. Funding and Accountability Working Group and Life Stabilization Working Group are intended to support discussions related to the delivery and steering of

Social Assistance Transformation. The director of Community Services sits at these confidential tables along with a limited number of other service managers.

- **Director Administrator Reference Group (DARG)** – established by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and comprising of one senior representative from each of the nine regions in Ontario along with Ministry staff and OMSSA representatives. The reference group will exchange ideas, solicit advice and feedback and participate in confidential strategic discussions about Ontario Works and broader social assistance system. The Director of Community Services for the County of Renfrew is the Eastern Region representative on this group.
- **OMSSA Leadership Table** –hosted by OMSSA and with representatives from each of the 47 CMSMs/DSSABs this confidential table engages with Ministry staff on a quarterly basis regarding social assistance policy and program changes
- **Ontario Works Change Liaisons Group** –provides ideas and feedback on provincial modernization initiatives and municipal change management prototypes
- **Ontario Works Administrators Table** – provides an opportunity for senior leaders in the eastern region to share organizational changes and discuss upcoming program amendments and issues being experienced

RESOLUTIONS

4. **Letter of Support for The Grind Pembroke**

Recommendation: THAT the Community Services Committee recommends to County Council that a letter of support be sent to The Grind Pembroke.

Background

Attached as Appendix OW-II is a letter from The Grind Pembroke requesting a letter of support for their Canada Healthy Communities Initiative grant application.

The Grind Pembroke provides important services to support vulnerable individuals in our community including take-out meals, after-hours emergency shelter, and transitional housing. The Grind has recently moved to their new location at 273 Victoria Street in Pembroke. They would like to construct a computer resource area in their new facility where clients can

access internet supports and technology to attend virtual medical and counselling appointments. A successful grant application would enable The Grind to purchase the necessary equipment and licences for clients to access required health services and help to reduce health disparities in Renfrew County.

CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS REPORT

Prepared by: Judy Mulvihill, Manager of Child Care and Early Years Division

Prepared for: Community Services Committee

April 14, 2021

INFORMATION**1. Capital Priorities Program including Child Care Capital Funding [Strategic Plan Goal # 3 (b)]**

Attached as Appendix CC-I is a memo from the Ministry of Education dated March 24, 2021 announcing the launch of the 2021-22 Capital Priorities Program, which provides school boards with an opportunity to identify and address their most urgent pupil accommodation needs including:

- accommodation pressures
- replacing schools in poor condition
- supporting past consolidation decisions
- providing facilities for French-language rights holders in under served areas
- creating new licensed child care spaces in schools

2. Second Community-Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Extension [Strategic Plan Goal #3 (b)]

Attached as Appendix CC-II is a memo from the Ministry of Education dated March 25, 2021. Due to exceptional circumstances surrounding COVID-19, CMSMs and DSSABs have been granted a second extension to spend their CBCP project allocations. This allocation for the County of Renfrew was \$367,620. As of March 31, 2021, through a request for funding process, all of the funds have been expended.

3. The Child Care and Early Years Division Overarching Objectives [Strategic Plan Goal #3 (b)]

With a present compliment of 13 full time staff the Child Care and Early Years Division is provincially mandated (Child Care and Early Years Act) as the Service System Manager of Early Years Programs in Renfrew County that includes:

- Management of provincial and federally allocated funds - Budget 2021 - \$10,509,886
- Management of the delivery of Fee Subsidy funding (330 children)
- Management of contracts and oversight of 27 licensed Child Care programs (1764 licensed spaces) and 8 Early Years programs in Renfrew County
- Direct operation of a Licensed Home Child Care Agency and Special Needs Resourcing services (180 children)

Provincial Working Group Memberships

[Strategic Plan Goal #1 (b)] and [Strategic Plan Goal #2 (b)]

- **OMSSA Children's Services**
Updates on provincial policy and key emerging developments.
- **OMSSA Leadership Table for Children's Services**
Provincial table for Children's Services Managers that provides updates on provincial policy and key emerging developments.
- **Northern and Eastern Provincial Partner Group**
Ministry of Education lead table that focuses on provincial policy and guidelines.

[Strategic Plan Goal #3 (a and b)]

- **Ontario Network of Special Needs Resourcing Programs**
Network for those providing Special Needs Resourcing services through Ministry of Education funded programs to identify and strategize best practises and needs.
- **Home Child Care Association of Ontario**
Association created to support provincial Licensed Home Child Care Agencies to ensure quality of programming and understand impacts of new legislation.
- **Eastern Region Fee Subsidy Caseworker Group**
Provincial group created to facilitate an exchange of best practices, local policies and procedures as well as to generate discussions surrounding fee subsidy areas of concern.

- **Eastern Region Capacity Building Coordinators Network**
Network that focuses on collaborating together to improve the quality of capacity building and training.

Provincial Working Group Memberships

- **Child Care Services Provider Network of Renfrew County (Lead)**
County of Renfrew Licensed Child Care Supervisors and Directors working group created to address service delivery needs and improve quality of service delivery.
- **Early Childhood Education Advisory Group Algonquin College Pembroke Campus**
Working group created to address the education and training needs of the students in the Early Childhood Education program.