



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Committee of the Whole**

**From:** **Malcolm Hunt, Director of Planning and Development Services**

**Meeting Date:** **September 26, 2016**

**Subject:** **Report PLHD16-008**  
**Housing is Fundamental 2016**

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide the Committee of the Whole with the 2016 "*Housing is Fundamental*" report from the City-County Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC).

## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report PLHD16-008 dated September 26, 2016, of the Director of Planning and Development Services, as follows:

That the 2016 edition of the Affordable Housing Action Committee's *Housing is Fundamental* publication be received for information.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budget and financial implications arising from this recommendation.

## **Background**

This is the eleventh consecutive year of publication of *Housing is Fundamental* by the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC). It is prepared by the volunteers in the Community Education Sub-Committee of AHAC. The sub-committee researches issues affecting affordable housing in Peterborough.

## Distribution Plan

The *Housing is Fundamental* 2016 report is available on the City of Peterborough's website at [www.peterborough.ca/housing](http://www.peterborough.ca/housing). A mail out distribution is now underway. The distribution list of approximately 250 names includes:

- Members of Peterborough City, County and Township Councils;
- Other municipal Housing Service Managers;
- Local community groups and agencies; and
- Housing sector stakeholders.

## Highlights – Canadian Rental Housing Index

The Canadian Rental Housing Index (CHRI) website ([www.rentalhousingindex.ca](http://www.rentalhousingindex.ca)) is highlighted in this edition of *Housing is Fundamental*. The website is a tool that presents National Household Survey data in an easy to understand way. For all 338 Federal electoral districts, it provides a data analysis of the affordability and suitability of rental housing, sorted by income group. *Housing is Fundamental* 2016 reports that if you are a household earning less than \$20,388/year and renting a 2-bedroom apartment in Peterborough city or county, then you:

- are one of 925 households
- spend (on average) \$723 monthly for rent and utilities
- spend (on average) 76% of your total before-tax household income on rent plus utilities
- require (on average) an additional \$17,454 annually to make your rent affordable (i.e. 30% of household income)

Peterborough has a “severe” score on the Canadian Rental Housing Index, which measures affordability, suitability, overspending, income gap, overcrowding, and bedroom shortfall. The ranking is 250th among 284 localities in Canada.

## Rent Supplements

AHAC advocates for more rent supplement program funding locally. This supports the ongoing City efforts to “expand rent supplement programs”, as identified in the City's the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan (the Plan). *Housing is Fundamental* 2016 reports that:

- rent supplements make rent costs truly affordable;
- people in core housing need and those experiencing homelessness can quickly transition from unaffordable housing to affordable housing;
- rent supplements provide choice for households to rent in the private market;
- reduce housing costs and enable low-income households to meet their other essential needs; and
- improve stability and security.

AHAC will continue in its advisory role to the City and County on housing-related issues, through the Joint Services Steering Committee. As well, engagement with City staff is ongoing in connection to the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan work. AHAC's "Housing is Fundamental" reports and the City's "Progress Reports" on the Plan continue to provide local data every year. These reports are intended to help set the context for programs and policies to continue to meet the needs of City and County residents.

This report was presented to the Joint Services Steering Committee on September 8, 2016 as Report Number PLHDJSSC16-004 and the recommendation was endorsed.

Submitted by,

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**Attachments:**

Appendix A –Housing is Fundamental 2016