



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

FROM: Malcolm Hunt, Director of Planning and Development Services

MEETING DATE: September 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Report PLHDJSSC12-005
Housing Is Fundamental 2012 – Information Report

PURPOSE

A report to provide information regarding “*Housing is Fundamental*” 2012, which is an annual publication of the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC).

RECOMMENDATION

That Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendation outlined in Report PLHDJSSC12-005 dated September 20, 2012, of the Director of Planning and Development Services, as follows:

That the presentation and report *Housing is Fundamental* 2012 of the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC) be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

BACKGROUND

Housing is Fundamental is published annually by the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC) and is compiled by the Community Education Sub-Committee of AHAC. This is the seventh year of publication.

Housing is Fundamental 2012 focuses on the challenges faced by the municipality to address affordable housing needs in the City and County of Peterborough, especially resulting from a reduction in funding from senior levels of government. In August 2012, the City of Peterborough's delegation of Council members and staff met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference and discussed the challenges faced in this community, as well as strategies for addressing our local needs. The City will develop a 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan aimed at articulating the City's goals to meet housing needs.

Distribution of *Housing is Fundamental* 2012 will be primarily through a targeted mailing and City meetings with community partners. The document will be sent to other municipalities, the province and the federal government, and will also be available online. In addition, AHAC members will present the publication at various meetings.

A member of the Affordable Housing Action Committee will be in attendance at the Joint Service Steering Committee meeting on September 20, 2012 to provide an overview of the 2012 report.

HOUSING IS FUNDAMENTAL 2012 FOCUS AND FINDINGS

Housing is Fundamental 2012 highlights the theme of addressing affordable housing needs and the need to develop creative solutions locally.

Highlights include:

- Housing is the single largest expense for low and modest-income families.
- For 2011, Peterborough had the highest unemployment figures and the lowest average hourly wage in Canada of 34 census metropolitan areas.
- The rental market vacancy rate dropped to 3.5% in October 2011.
- Regarding "Core Housing Need" in Peterborough, 50.43% of renters are spending more than 30% of their incomes on rent and a further 22.97% spending more than 50%.

- Income inequality has been increasing over the last 20 years. Income disparity in Canada is increasing at a faster rate than other peer countries.
- AHAC is advocating that the City and County of Peterborough establish a municipal rent subsidy program, in order to generate affordable housing without building new affordable rental units.

SUMMARY

The Community Education Sub-Committee of the Affordable Housing Action Committee will continue its work to provide factual information and to follow housing trends and indicators. As part of the development of the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, the City of Peterborough is required to construct an annual public reporting framework. The City will engage AHAC as a key informant in the development of the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Submitted by,

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Attachment:
Appendix A – Housing is Fundamental 2012