



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Committee of the Whole

FROM: Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: September 4, 2014

RE: **Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario (2014 Extension) Program**

This memo provides the details of the recently announced Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario (IAH) (2014 Extension) Program and outlines the planned use for the Region's Year 1 (2014-15) allocation.

The IAH (2014 Extension) Program will provide funding for affordable housing until 2020

On August 11, 2014, the Region received a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing outlining preliminary details on a six-year IAH (2014 Extension) Program, including confirmation of a Year 1 (2014-15) allocation of \$5,014,600 for York Region (see *Attachment 1*). The letter also notes that the Region's allocation for the final five years of the program (2015-2020) will be based on new census data and will be provided once this data becomes available. It is anticipated that York Region's share of the total funding allocation will be in excess of \$45 million.

In anticipation of the IAH (2014 Extension) Program, on May 15, 2014, through the adoption of a report titled *Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario Allocation and Program Update*, Council authorized the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to accept and allocate funds and enter into agreements with housing providers for the balance of 2014 to meet potential deadlines. Council also authorized the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to execute the necessary agreements with the Province to facilitate the Region's participation in the new program.

Background

In March 2013, the federal government announced an agreement to extend the IAH Program, providing five additional years of funding. As with the previous IAH Program, the federal contribution is contingent on funds being matched by the Province.

In their budget approved in July 2014, the new provincial government announced the IAH (2014 Extension) Program with funding to be distributed over a six-year period.

Year 1 (2014-15) allocation will be used to support the construction of the Richmond Hill Housing and Community Hub

It is proposed that the \$5,014,600 be committed, through the approved Commission authority, to the Richmond Hill Housing and Community Hub project which is currently under construction. These IAH (2014 Extension) Program funds will replace funds currently allocated from the Social Housing Development Reserve for this project, providing opportunity to use these funds for other affordable housing projects.

Council will be updated on Year 2 to Year 5 funding allocation and the Program Delivery and Fiscal Plan

A report will be brought to Council outlining the proposed use of future funds once the Province announces the Region's allocation for Years 2 through 5 of the IAH (2014 Extension) Program.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

AU/gw

Attachment (1)

#5641158

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August 11, 2014

Chair Bill Fisch
Chairman
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Chairman Fisch:

I am pleased to inform you that the extension of the Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario (IAH) program was announced today, August 11, 2014. The IAH (2014 Extension) is a joint initiative between our government and the federal government that will provide another \$800 million for more affordable housing over six years.

With this investment, Ontario's funding commitment is now over \$4 billion since 2003. This is the largest affordable housing investment in the province's history. Ontario is supporting the creation of over 20,000 affordable rental housing units, making more than 275,000 repairs and improvements to social and affordable housing units, and providing rental and down payment assistance to over 90,000 households in need.

The IAH (2014 Extension) will continue to provide increased flexibility and accountability for Service Managers to design strategies that meet local needs and priorities identified in their Housing and Homelessness Plans.

As with the current IAH, Service Managers will be provided with annual notional funding allocations for their area in order to assist with the planning and delivery of the new program.

I am pleased to advise that the Year 1 (2014-15) notional funding allocation under the new program for the Regional Municipality of York is \$5,014,600. Allocation for the final five years of the program (2015-20) will be based on the new census data and will be provided once this data becomes available.

Each Service Manager's annual notional funding allocation must be committed within the established deadlines of each program year. Funding that is not committed by these deadlines may be re-allocated to other Service Managers.

I recognize that there will be challenges to meet the funding commitment deadline this year. Consequently, this deadline has been extended to January 30, 2015 and ministry staff will work closely with Service Managers to ensure full program take up.

Service Managers will soon be provided with the Administration Agreement template that includes the Program Guidelines.

Our government continues to recognize the need for affordable housing across Ontario and we believe that the future of housing depends on sustained funding. While the IAH (2014 Extension) will provide funding for housing over six years, I continue to encourage you to support the province's call for a long-term funding commitment from the federal government that is fair to Ontarians and will help meet the needs of Ontario families.

Best regards,



The Honourable Ted McMeekin
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c. Mr. Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional Municipality of York
Ms. Sylvia Patterson, General Manager, Housing and Long Term Care;
Assistant General Manager, Housing York Inc., Regional Municipality of York