



Report To: Property Committee

From: Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services  
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Date: June 19, 2019

Re: 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - 2018 Progress Report

## Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Property Committee, the Board and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with a year five (5) update on the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan targets, objectives, and progress achieved for the DSB for the 2018 calendar year.

## Background

Through the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and with the passing of the Housing Services Act (HSA), 2011, the Province completed the devolution of Ontario's affordable housing to municipalities. The Province required the development of a [10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan](#) to reflect certain principles or 'interests' that the government had prescribed in addition to considering and responding to local needs.

The Province outlined basic requirements for the content:

- plans must identify current and future housing needs,
- set objectives and targets related to identified needs,
- describe actions to meet these goals, and
- indicate how the process will be measured.

## Year One 2015 Report

The [Year One Report](#) of the Plan was presented to the Board on June 26, 2015 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing.

## **Year Two 2016 Report**

The [Year Two Report](#) of the Plan was presented to the Board on June 22, 2016 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing.

## **Year Three 2017 Report**

The [Year Three Report](#) of the Plan was presented to the Board on June 21, 2017 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing.

## **Year Four 2018 Report**

The [Year Four Report](#) on the Plan was presented to the Board on May 24, 2018, and submitted to the Ministry of Housing.

**The fourteen (14) priorities of the Plan are as follows and actions are reported accordingly.**

### **#1 Understand and Respond to the District's Demographic**

- The tenant and applicant demographic remained consistent with previous year, and hence we continue to monitor and respond to local need.
- [Portfolio Review](#) This report provides information with respect to the housing portfolio continued capital and maintenance investment requirements and consideration to sell a portion of the Social Housing Portfolio. In considering the sale of any property the DSB compares the needs of the community to the availability of units to meet the demand of waiting list applicants.

### **#2 Strong Emphasis on Seniors Required – Housing and Supports**

- The [Ontario Renovates Program](#) will continue to assist seniors and their ability to 'age at home'.
- Began partnership with the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) and Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) to provide co-ordination for senior supports on-site.
- [Direct Shelter Subsidy \(DSS\) program](#) continues to include a municipal funding portion for Seniors who own their home to receive funding under this initiative.
- DSB continues to support the Community of St. Charles following designation of an Age-Friendly Community and designation at the World Health Organization.

### **#3 Implement Strategies to Support Overlooked Populations – Aboriginals, Youth, Non-Senior Persons with Disabilities, and Individuals who are Homeless**

- The Transitional Community Support Worker (TCSW) Pilot is complete and the position has become full-time support for the Manitoulin Area.
- Continue to advocate with the Provincial Government to reevaluate the reductions to the Youth Job Connection program. This work is still ongoing. We have made some improvements whereby the statistics and allocation have increased in the Sudbury North Region only.
- Funding received through New Horizon's for Seniors Program to enhance accessibility features in Espanola Apartment Complex.
- Received support for new pilot program in partnership with Community Living Espanola to support persons with developmental disabilities.

### **#4 Address Additional Gaps in Services that Contribute to Imminent Risk of Homelessness**

- Increased funding envelopes to support rent subsidy through the Direct Shelter Subsidy Program (DSS)
- Continue to use a pre-screening tool to ensure that the applicants with the highest need are prioritized for the Affordable Housing Program.
- Housing applicants continue receiving priority based on need rather than the outdated chronological date order within the Housing Waiting List.
- Data gathering with Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre across all DSB programs

### **#5 Imperative Action on Improving Transportation Accessibility Required**

- Continue to operate the DSB van fleet that assists with the transportation of clients to education facilities.
- Support Municipal initiatives to obtain grant funding for transportation initiatives in Sudbury East.

### **#6 Employment and Training Opportunities**

- The DSB continues to establish local community partnerships for employment and training opportunities with the Chapleau Learning Centre, Alpha en Partage, Collège Boréal, Cambrian College and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA). New and creative programs are generated based on community needs.
- Another successful year with Jobs for Youth Program (JFY) in exceeding targeted placements.

## **#7 Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Housing**

- Funding received to conduct Energy Audit and efficiency retrofits through the Innovation, Evidence, and Capacity Building Fund Grant.

## **#8 Innovation and Efficiency with Affordable Housing**

- We continue to adapt and improve the [Direct Shelter Subsidy Program](#) to assist with maintaining affordable accommodations to singles and families on Ontario Works and Ontario Support Disability Program with higher than Shelter Component costs.
- The DSB was successful in receiving grant under the province's Innovation, Evidence and Capacity Building fund to research energy efficiency across Northern Ontario Social Housing. (reference #7)

## **#9 Increase Opportunities by Increasing Knowledge Dissemination**

- Semi-annual staff development meetings focus on relevant topics based on current social climate as well as staff needs. In 2018 the focus was on Self-Care.
- Staff undertake various workshops and training opportunities relevant to position, that provide enhanced opportunity for client engagement.

## **#10 Spearhead Integrated Service Delivery**

- The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB works within a full-integration model across all programs to provide the greatest service to clients.
- Integrated annual reviews
- Integrated tenant complaint system
- Updated application to support ease of reporting
- Integrated work order system
- Electronic filing system allowing staff in all departments to reference material as needed rather than have client submit multiple times.
- Adaptation of staff roles for improved efficiency in client services

## **#11 Increased Advocacy Roles for Civic Leaders**

- The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) was expanded through the Investment in Affordable Housing program commitment through to 2020 allowing the program to continue past the former expiry date of the program.

## **#12 Increase Program Evaluations**

- Program surveys continue to be an integral part of program delivery. Monthly review of survey results at the Supervisor/Director of ISS level for any issues to be addressed timely.

## **#13 Closely Monitor the Release of RFPs and Opportunities for Funding**

- New Horizon's for Seniors Grant received in the amount of \$25,000 to retro-fit the bathroom at one of our buildings to be accessible and comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).
- Continued partnership with NE LHIN and CMHA to fund and support the Transitional Community Support Worker expansion which assists tenants retain their housing.
- The DSB partnership with the University of Guelph wound up the project funded by a grant from the Provinces Innovation, Evidence and Capacity Building fund (\$69,320) for a research project to unlock the massive potential for energy savings in the social housing sector.

## **#14 Rationalizing the Social Housing Stock**

- Continually reviews their housing stock, and review opportunities to purpose-serve our communities.
- Consideration of property sales where high operating costs are counter-intuitive to the Municipal levy.
- Review of current policies is ongoing.

## **Conclusion**

We will continue to work towards addressing each recommendation and continuing with the work achieved thus far. We believe in our 10-year plan and will continue to work towards ensuring our communities benefit from our commitment.

As required by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the DSB will undertake a formal review of our 10-year plan at the 5-year anniversary to ensure that our plan continues to meet the housing needs of our communities. This is an in depth review of the 10 year plan and staff are reviewing the best method to conduct the review which will include hiring a qualified consultant.