



Request for Regional Council’s Consideration

Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk’s Office by Noon Thursday)



Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk’s Office by Noon Monday)

Request from the Floor

Date of Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Subject: Sample Model Housing Resolution

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council endorse the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) housing campaign and urges the Minister of Employment and Social Development to develop a long –term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of \$1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians.

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister noted above, to the provincial Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and the Minister responsible for Housing Nova Scotia, to local Members of Parliament, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM).

Outcome Sought:

Endorsement of the attached FCM sample model housing resolution.

Councillor:

District: 3

Original Signed

Dartmouth South – Eastern Passage

Bill Karsten

RESOLUTION

Development of a New Long-Term Federal Plan to Fix Canada's Housing Crunch

WHEREAS, a stable and secure housing system that creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens; and,

WHEREAS the high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over \$1.1 trillion; and,

WHEREAS housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians' personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk; and,

WHEREAS those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units, which is driving up rental costs and making it hard to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity; and,

WHEREAS an inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while \$1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire; and,

WHEREAS coordinated action is required to prevent housing issues from being offloaded onto local governments and align the steps local governments have already taken with regard to federal/provincial/territorial programs and policies; and,

WHEREAS, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, "Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch," calling on the federal government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada's housing future; and,

WHEREAS FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a council resolution supporting the campaign;

AND WHEREAS, HRM has the oldest housing stock in the country, over 2000 individuals access our local shelter system annually, and the gap between income and rent levels is steadily widening, all of which are issues that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by federal leadership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that council endorses the FCM housing campaign and urges the minister of employment and social development to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry

of \$1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the minister noted above, to the provincial minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and the minister responsible for Housing Nova Scotia, to local Members of Parliament, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.