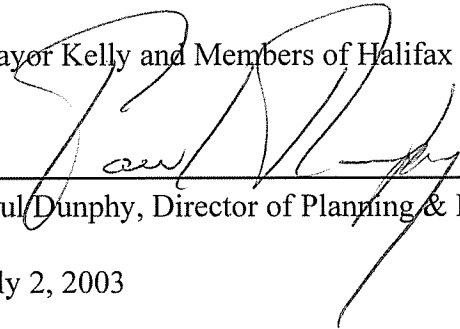


**Halifax Regional Council**  
**July 15, 2003**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Paul Dunphy, Director of Planning & Development Services

**DATE:** July 2, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Homelessness and Affordable Housing Research Update

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Staff

#### BACKGROUND

While HRM does not have the responsibility for delivering housing programs, we have been supportive of the community effort to address emergency housing issues for the homeless in HRM. As a member of the Community Action on Homelessness Steering Committee, staff developed a research proposal to collect and analyse data on the scope of homelessness in Metro Halifax. The proposal was successful in receiving funding from the National Homelessness Initiative Supporting Community Partnerships Program (SCPI). Following is an update of progress to date.

#### DISCUSSION

Several projects are completed.

- **A Literature Review** - soon to be seen on the HRM web site and distributed to community agencies, the public libraries and university libraries, and to appropriate provincial and federal government departments.
- A **Survey** by Corporate Research Associate on "Experiences, Perceptions and Attitudes about Housing Costs and Homelessness in HRM" has been completed. The survey data includes data related to detailed analysis by geographic, economic, education and gender factors. The analysis of this data is underway.
- **A Portrait of Street and Shelter** is a snapshot study of the homeless in Metro and qualitative individual portraits. Staff have been working closely with community agencies and citizens to move this project along. Analysis is underway.
- **Municipal Homeless in Shelters Survey and Rent Geared to Income Study** for the FCM Quality of Life Reporting System 3rd Report is due to be published in October. This report will include HRM data.

Research Projects underway or in development:

- **Study on the impact of municipal land use policies on affordable housing** - An RFP has closed and evaluation of the proposal is underway.
- **Harm Reduction Needs Assessment** - A contract has been awarded to study issues related to Wet Shelters. The results are expected in September.
- On **July 11<sup>th</sup>**, at a housing issues seminar, staff will make a presentation to community agencies on research on homelessness and HRM's project results to date.
- A **Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis on Homelessness** among three distinct communities of interest; African Nova Scotians, Aboriginals and Immigrants will involve focus groups and demographic, social profiles for each community. An RFP for this study is being prepared.
- **Demographic analysis** of the most recent census data.
- **Overall analysis.**
- **Findings, Recommendations and Presentation** of results.

### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

### ALTERNATIVES

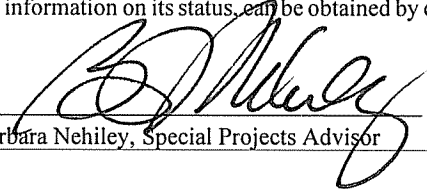
None

### ATTACHMENTS

None

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:

  
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