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Halifax Regional Municipality
MAR 16 2015
Office of the Mayor



United Way

Halifax

Change starts here.

March 11, 2015

Mayor Mike Savage
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS
B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor *Mike* Savage,

I would like to acknowledge the participation of Halifax Regional Municipality in the Housing and Homelessness Partnership, with; Housing Nova Scotia, Canada Mortgage and Housing, the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia, the Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia, Capital Health, IWK and United Way Halifax. The contributions made by municipal staff, including from the Mayor's Office, have made a significant difference in our understanding of the issues impacting our community, and has enabled us to reach for solutions to end homelessness and housing poverty in Halifax.

The members of the Housing and Homelessness Partnership have recently endorsed phase one of a Housing First Program for Halifax. Housing First is a program and philosophy that accommodates people regardless of their challenges. It supports them to remain housed without a requirement that they first become "housing ready". This program will begin by housing and supporting 50 of the city's most chronically and repeatedly homeless individuals. We know from similar programs across North America that a Housing First Program is the most effective intervention to offer people who have long struggled with homelessness. Part of phase one includes a thorough evaluation element to make necessary adaptations to the program; best serve our citizens and assess the program at a local level by measuring cost savings across our systems.

Each member of the Partnership has been requested to make a contribution to the Housing First Program. I write this letter to request that the Municipality consider making a financial contribution to this important initiative of the Housing and Homelessness Partnership. Your consideration is greatly appreciated, please feel free to reach out to me if I can answer any questions or be of any assistance.

Sincerely *[Signature]*
Original Signed
Catherine Woodman
President & CEO
United Way Halifax

