



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services Rhonda McCauley, Social Housing Program Supervisor
Date:	June 21, 2017
Re:	10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - 2017 Progress Report

## Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the DSB Board and the Ministry of Housing with a year three (3) update on the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan targets, objectives, and progress achieved for the DSB for the 2016 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 Report

The [Year One report](#) of the Plan was presented to the Board on June 25, 2015 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing on June 30, 2015.

## Year Two Report

The [Year Two report](#) of the Plan was presented to the Board on June 23, 2016 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing on June 24, 2016.

## **Year Three Report**

This Year Three report on the Plan includes a review of the priorities that were the response to the accumulation of data and research pertaining to housing, income, and homelessness gathered from within the DSB at the time the Plan was developed. The priorities overlap and complement one another, with an integrated approach focused on addressing housing and homelessness in the ten-year period. Many priorities involve continuing and building on existing initiatives that the DSB has in place, as well as increasing its efficiency and capacity as a community partner around housing and homelessness. Integrated service delivery and enhanced evaluation are frequently emphasized components to many of the priorities. The priorities also evolve over time as opportunities for new initiatives arise.

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

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

- The tenant and applicant demographic are reviewed to determine if the buildings designation or tenant composition should be amended accordingly.

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

- The Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) Program - [Ontario Renovates](#) will continue to assist seniors and their ability to 'age at home'.

### **#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 Project is now complete however the work continues in the LaCloche Area. An expression of interest has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing through the Home For Good proposal to expand the project to the Manitoulin Island area as the pilot results showed that it was extremely beneficial to have a TCSW on site to alleviate challenges which the tenants were experiencing. [A final report](#) of the pilot project has been submitted to the North East LHIN. A business case will be submitted to them in the fall of 2017 for further funding.
- Advocating 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. Also, as a result of feedback from stakeholders, the ministry is offering more flexibility to the placement component of the Youth Job Connection and Youth Job Connection: Summer programs by allowing placements with provincial or municipal government or agency employers.

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

- Continue to use a pre-screening tool to ensure that the applicants with the highest need are prioritized for the Affordable Housing Program.

#### **#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.

#### **#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. New and creative programs as generated based on community needs.

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

- Completed energy audits at two social housing buildings to strategize energy efficiency upgrade options. Approved Social Housing Improvement Program (SHIP) funding for Non-Profit Housing providers and one Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB building to improve energy efficiency and sustainability of the housing stock.

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

- We continue to administer the very successful [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. We continue to offer the program to low income families to subsidize in place. We have recently expanded the criteria to include providing the Direct Shelter Subsidy to seniors living in their own homes.
- The Ministry of Housing hosted a Housing and Homelessness Forum which was developed to align with the themes outlined in the 2016 Updated Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy.
- Met with the Northern Ontario Service Delivers Association and the NE-LHIN to expand on the strategic plan in guide innovative housing with Health Support in Northeastern Ontario. 43 recommendations were created to address the priorities.

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

- We continue to provide staff with training, and mental health and addictions education sessions. Staff drive the topic selection and the education increases the effectiveness of staff as they communicate with clients. The information is further disseminated to clients and community partners.

- Bi-annual tenant meetings at the Social Housing buildings are hosted to inform the residents of policies, changes and programs offered by the DSB.

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

- Although the initial integration of the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) program was challenging, the program allows for further integration and support of clients across DSB programs.
- Continue to use a pre-screening tool for housing applicants which has streamlined the application process, and has alleviated outdated applicant information, while maintaining the centralized waiting list.
- The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is moving towards Integrated annual reviews for all programs to ensure efficient integrated service delivery.

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

- The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) was extended 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**

- Ongoing

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

- Investigated Infrastructure Ontario's (IO) Green Loan Fund which provides low interest loans for new housing developments. The fund was not pursued as additionally required grant funding was not available.
- The DSB continues to monitor and explore additional funding opportunities year over year. We applied for the Home For Good Proposal to expand on the Transitional Community Support Worker position/pilot project in coordination with CMHA and intend on applying for the Local Poverty Reduction Fund.
- The Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) seed funding opportunities have been communicated to housing developers throughout the district as this fund may provide the impetus for new affordable housing development.

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

- The DSB continues to review the current housing stock, and review opportunities to purpose-serve our communities.
- Review of current policies to expand DSS Policy to include seniors living in their homes, allowing rent subsidy to be paid in place and be portable.

- We provided the Ministry of Housing with the board/staff's input on the Portable Housing Benefit.

## **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.