

MEMORANDUM**COM-C 28-2021**

Subject: Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for June, July and August, 2021

Date: September 14, 2021

To: Public Health & Social Services Committee

From: Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services

Further to Council's direction in October 2019 (COM 40-2019), staff continue to provide regular updates about activities, local targets, outcomes and challenges related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP), as new information is available.

- The HHAP Housing Focused Shelter Working Group has engaged staff from Niagara Health System (NH) to collaborate on improving the transfer of clients between local hospitals and emergency shelters, and reduce discharges from Hospital into homelessness.
- Niagara Region Homelessness Services purchased much needed accessibility enhancing items included ramps, accessible beds, wheelchairs, shower chairs, hand rails and grab bars. Client needs were determined in collaboration with shelter and street outreach agencies. The items were delivered to agencies with positive client feedback. Niagara Region had received \$60,000 in provincial funding through the Inclusive Community Grants Program in March 2021, for purchases to improve accessibility in the Homeless Serving System.
- Niagara Region Homelessness Services Quarterly Newsletter was relaunched in July 2021, to improve communications with service providers and other stakeholders.
- New Housing Development Highlights:
 1. Hawkins Avenue, Niagara Falls, 73 affordable units (NRH) – Construction 80% completed and on track for occupancy January 2022.

2. Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls, 15 bridge housing units and potential for 10 recuperative care beds – Permits submitted July 15, 2021, targeted completion for December 23, 2021.
3. Buchanan Avenue, Niagara Falls, 25 permanent supportive housing units – Design Bid RFP awarded, design & permit submitted. Target project completion December 31, 2021.
4. Rapid Housing Initiative - Federal government has awarded \$10.5 million for the construction of 41 affordable units by the Fall of 2022. Project details forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner