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## MEMORANDUM

**COM-C 4-2022**

**Subject:** Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for December 2021, January, February 2022

**Date:** March 8, 2022

**To:** Public Health & Social Services Committee

**From:** Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services

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Further to Council's direction in October 2019 (Report [COM 40-2019 Five-Year Review of Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan](https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=6025) <https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=6025>), 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.

- Further to a commitment to continue to improve local services, a review was initiated in December 2021, to evaluate the current state of local homeless prevention programs and provide recommendations to enhance the delivery of homelessness prevention. The recommendations are expected to be completed by end of April 2022, and will incorporate nationally recognized best practices, feedback from prevention service users and providers, and leverage the strengths of current prevention service delivery.
- The Built for Zero Veterans working group, which includes representatives from the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) and the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL), completed its first cycle of work in December 2021. This group is focused on achieving a "functional zero" objective to end veteran homelessness. Accomplishments by end of year include:
  - Added the RCL as a service provider within Niagara's homeless-serving system's updated consent policy and established RCL as a key contact to help coordinate and accelerate confirming veteran status through Veteran Affairs Canada.

- Piloted referral processes between RCL and Niagara's housing and homelessness services to coordinate housing and supports from both systems most effectively for each veteran.
  - Developed and delivered customized training with RCL for front-line workers from Niagara Assertive Street Outreach (NASO), EMS Outreach, emergency shelters, Social Assistance (hostels team), and other services on available supports for veterans and how to identify, engage and refer veterans to supports.
  - Working from the By-Name List, NASO actively worked to engage and support positive housing transitions for seven veterans experiencing chronic homelessness.
- New Housing Development Highlights:
    1. Hawkins Avenue Niagara Falls, 73 affordable units (NRH) – construction 100% complete, occupancy on target for end of February 2022.
    2. Victoria Avenue Niagara Falls, 15 bridge housing units and potential for 10 recuperative care beds – experiencing some COVID-related construction delays, but partial occupancy targeted for end of February 2022.
    3. Buchanan Avenue Niagara Falls, 25 permanent supportive housing units – construction completed and partial occupancy awarded in December 2021.
    4. Rapid Housing Initiative – Federal government has awarded \$10.5 million for the project in Welland. Design-build contract was awarded and design phase is in progress. Target completion is planned for December 2022.
    5. National Women and Children Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative (grant opportunity) – An application was submitted to build and support a 3-storey, 18 unit transitional housing project to support women and families fleeing violence. Funding decision is anticipated for March 2022.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE  
Commissioner