
MEMORANDUM

COM-C 28-2023

Subject: Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for January to March 2023

Date: August 08, 2023

To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

From: Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services

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, staff continue to provide updates about activities, local targets, outcomes and challenges related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP).

- In February, the 10-bed Recuperative Care Program located in the Bridge Housing Facility in Niagara Falls opened. This program is being supported by Home and Community Care Support Services and REACH Niagara. It is an intensive short-term, low barrier accommodation that helps to fill the service gap between hospital and shelter to support people who are absolutely homeless, after being discharged from the hospital, to recover and access care from an interdisciplinary team. This pilot initiative is also being supported with temporary funding from Ontario Health in a collaborative effort to support the health of homeless individuals and reduce pressures on the hospital system.
- In March, Housing Services hired the project lead to create a detailed roadmap to advance the Consolidated Housing Master Plan (CHMP). The CHMP was completed in 2022 and identified the need to develop 479 new units of community housing (housing provided by NRH, non-profit or co-operative housing providers) each year to 2045 to meet local demand. The roadmap will include prioritization of potential development projects, financial modelling and portfolio planning. This approach will ensure that Niagara maximizes land resources it already has, enhances partnership opportunities with local municipalities and housing providers, and ensure that a progressive number of shovel ready projects will be in the queue, in order to better leverage provincial and federal funding opportunities.

2022/2023 \$2,768,200 of Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) and \$1,730,638 of Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) funding was fully allocated. The funding was allocated for Housing Provider repairs, shelters, Niagara Renovates and Rent Supplements.

New Housing Development Highlights:

- Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls – 15 Bridge Housing units and 10 recuperative care beds. 98% complete. Full occupancy granted March 2023.
- Ormond Street North / St. David's Road East, Thorold – 11 NRH units; six are occupied, two are ready to occupy and three are 100% complete and waiting for occupancy permit.
- York Street, Welland – 43 units. 80% complete on track for completion June 2023.
- Crescent Road, Fort Erie – 18 units. 10% complete with a target completion date of June 2023.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE
Commissioner, Community Services

