

**REPORT TO:** Board of Directors of Niagara Regional Housing  
**SUBJECT:** 2024 Reappointment of Community Members

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Board reviews the performance of its Community Members and **RECOMMENDS** to Council for **APPROVAL**, the reappointment of those Members whose terms expire in 2024, specifically that Betty Ann Baker, Betty-Lou Souter, David Mole and Drew Toth be **REAPPOINTED** for a term ending on October 31, 2025.

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek Board recommendation on the reappointment of Members following the rotation schedule as approved.

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
4 Community Directors Retire 3 in March 1 in June  Appoint all to Oct. 31 2021	4 Community Directors Retire  <b>Appoint for 2 Years to 2023</b>  Nov 1 2021- Oct 31 2023	<b>Election Year</b> 5 Councillor Directors Retire Nov 30 2022  Appoint for 4 years to 2026  Dec 2022- Nov 30 2026	4 Community Directors Retire  Appoint for 1 year  Nov 1 2023- Oct 31 2024	4 Community Directors Retire  Appoint for 1 year  Nov 1 2024- Oct 31 2025	4 Community Directors Retire  <b>Appoint for 2 Years to 2027</b>  Nov 1 2025- Oct 31 2027	<b>Election Year</b> 5 Councillor Directors Retire Nov 30, 2026  Appoint for 4 years to 2030  Dec 2026- Nov 30 2030	4 Community Directors Retire  Appoint for 1 year  Nov 1 2027- Oct 31 2028

**KEY FACTS**

- Continuity and knowledge of housing legislation and how changes effect housing, will be extremely important:
  - Uncertainties regarding the Provincial Community Housing Renewal Plan
  - Advocating for sustainable affordable housing

## REPORT

NRH's By-Law #1, Section 3.03, Appointment and Election of Directors, indicates that the four elected Directors may serve multiple one year terms ending October 31 provided they not be elected for more than twelve consecutive one year terms. In the year immediately prior to the year of holding of municipal elections, at which date the four Elected Directors shall be elected for a two year term ending October 31, in the year following the holding of a municipal election.

Term dates for the Community Directors are provided below:

DIRECTOR	Area	Date Appointed to End of Current Term	Service to October 31, 2024	Eligible to Serve After October 31, 2024
Betty Ann Baker	Welland/Region	Nov. 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024 Feb. 16, 2018 - October 31, 2023	1 yr. 5 yr. 8 months	5 yr. 4 months
Betty-Lou Souter	St. Catharines/ Region	Nov. 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024 June 15, 2018 - October 31, 2023	1 yr. 5 yr. 4 months	5 yr. 8 months
David Mole	St. Catharines/ Region	Nov. 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024 Nov. 18, 2021 – October 31, 2023	1 yr. 1 yr. 11 months	9 yr. 1 month
Drew Toth	Thorold / Region	Nov. 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024 Nov. 18, 2021 – October 31, 2023	1 yr. 1 yr. 11 months	9 yr. 1 month

Bios for these Members are attached in Appendix 1.

According to Appendix B, Reappointment Process, the Board reviews performance to determine if it wishes to recommend Members for reappointment. Results are made known to the respective Members. Those interested in reappointment would then submit an Expression of Interest to the Clerk's office.

**Evaluation Criteria**

The Board approved evaluation criteria for assessing performance:

**1. Meeting attendance**

80% attendance at all meetings with exceptions recognized for illness, family matters, vacations and meetings held outside regular schedule.

**2. Duration**

In attendance for the entire meeting with exceptions recognized for meetings running past scheduled end time.

**3. Contribution to other committees**

Consideration should be given if the member in question participates on any of the Board committees. It was agreed that this should be provided for information purposes only.

**4. Active participation**

The member should contribute to each meeting through discussion and questions.

**5. Visionary**

Although difficult to measure, consideration should be given to a member who is visionary and can add to discussions that move the Board and the Corporation forward.

To assist the Board in its assessment of member reappointment, the attendance for the Directors seeking reappointment for the one year term expiring on October 31, 2024, are included in the chart below:

**October 2023 to August 2024**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Board Meeting Actual Attendance</b>	<b>Board Meeting Adjusted Attendance</b>	<b>Committee Membership</b>
Betty Ann Baker	80%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal Committee</li> <li>• Provider Advisory Committee</li> </ul>
Betty-Lou Souter	80%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal Committee</li> <li>• Development Committee</li> </ul>
David Mole	60%	90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal Committee</li> <li>• Tenant Advisory Committee</li> </ul>
Drew Toth	80%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal Committee</li> <li>• Development Committee</li> </ul>

Please assess the performance of the perspective re-appointees based on the evaluation criteria. An email vote will be taken at the Board meeting. The perspective appointees do not vote for themselves.

Submitted by:



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Cameron Banach  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved by:



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Gary Zalepa  
Chair

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Member Bios

Appendix 2 – Process for Reappointments of NRH Directors

## Appendix 1

### MEMBER BIOS

#### **Betty Ann Baker**

A resident of Welland, Betty Ann Baker is the Executive Director of Niagara Peninsula Homes, which she helped create in 1981, and has been involved in the development of over 2,700 units of co-op and non-profit housing in Niagara and Hamilton.

Ms. Baker also contributed to the creation of Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) and became a director of the first Board of NRH in 2002. During her 43 years in the housing sector, Ms. Baker also served as Chair of the former Coordinated Housing Access Niagara (CHAN), Chair of the Niagara Housing Authority, and on the Niagara College Board of Governors.

Betty Ann Baker is the recipient of the CMHC award recognizing involvement in the Co-op Housing Sector and awarded the 2008 Business Woman of the Year. Ms. Baker was also recognized as one of Chatelaine's Women of the Year in 2000 for her work with Niagara Presents, Niagara Women's Enterprise Centre, and Niagara Peninsula Homes.

#### **Betty-Lou Souter**

As Chief Executive Officer of Community Care, St. Catharines & Thorold, Betty Lou provides oversight to the 20 integrated programs and services that support the less advantaged on their journey to independence and self sufficiency including but not limited to food and shelter security, money management and other related life skills.

She is a committed and dedicated volunteer with more than 40 years of experience in the voluntary sector and was one of 11 Ontarians who received the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship in 2011.

Betty-Lou currently serves as chair of the Hotel Dieu Shaver Board of Directors and is Vice Chair of the Board of Family and Children's Services.

Recipient of an Honourary Doctorate in 2015 from Brock (LLD), an Honourary Bachelor of Applied Studies in 2019 from Niagara College (BAS) and a Lifetime Achievement Award from WIN (Inspirational Women in Niagara) in 2018.

**David Mole**

Committed to better understanding the insecurities of our times - *housing, health, food, cost of living, mental health and addictions*, David has spent the last decade working throughout Niagara for a number of health and social service agencies including Niagara Health, Community Addiction Services of Niagara (CASON), the Canadian Mental Health Association of Niagara, Niagara College, and St. Joseph's Healthcare.

Particularly interested in supporting those in crisis and struggling with the phenomena known as "*deaths of despair*" - preventable overdoses, suicide, and chronic homelessness, David worked on the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST), a unique partnership with Niagara Regional Police Service and CMHA and is currently supporting older adults/seniors in need via the Niagara's Senior Mental Health Outreach Program (SMHO), Geriatric Psychiatry with St. Joe's.

Father to Thor & Loki, two very spirited miniature, long-haired Daschunds, and husband to Jessica, an ER RN, David is committed to ending homelessness in Niagara and working to make housing an affordable and realistic dream again.

**Drew Toth**

As Founder and Chief Development Officer, Drew Toth works with engineers, planners, investors, to oversee projects from vision to reality. Toth has a keen eye for finding suitable development opportunities and works alongside other seasoned professionals to convert raw land into site-plan approved land that often aims for its highest and best use.

Toth has been involved in various aspects of real estate, including forced asset appreciation, sales, investment, education, building and development. In the 15 years he's been actively involved in real estate, he has built a great reputation of trust and integrity with his colleagues, investors and clients. Drew embraces a New Urbanist philosophy believing that better-designed communities enhance its citizens' lives. Intensification, preserving green space, diversity, inclusivity, improving walkability and creating new opportunities are some of the common themes you'll encounter with Drew's various projects.

Toth is a lifelong Niagara resident. Toth was the Executive Director at Southridge Shelter, leading a team to help to guide those experiencing homelessness into a better life through programing, advocacy, and the provision of basic needs.

Drew's continued commitment to community involvement is demonstrated in his ongoing dedication to community initiatives and actions: Quest Community Health Clinic, HCRA/Tarion Vendor and Builder, member of the Innovative Affordable Housing Committee and Niagara Region, member of Welland's Affordable Task Force, ongoing partnership with local Home for Good programs and 2023 Net Zero Certified Builder.

## Appendix 2

### Process for Reappointments of NRH Directors:

- 1) The Chair of the NRH Board contacts the NRH Directors who are up for reappointment to see if they would like to renew for another term.
- 2) The Board reviews the performance of each Director who is being considered for re-appointment and based on this review the Board determines whether they can support that particular Director for reappointment.
- 3) The results of the Board's voting are provided to the Chair who then advises each Director of the results.
- 4) The successful Directors then submit an Expression of Interest letter to Clerk's Office for reappointment.
- 5) The Chair provides the Clerk's office with a list of the recommended reappointments.
- 6) A report is submitted to Regional Council to approve the reappointment of the recommended Directors for Membership.
- 7) The approved reappointments are announced publicly at Regional Council.
- 8) The Clerk's Office then contacts the Chair with the Council decision and the need for a Members' meeting.
- 9) The Clerk advises each Director of their successful or unsuccessful reappointment.
- 10) A Members meeting is held and a formal vote taken to approve the reappointment.