
MEMORANDUM

COM-C 9-2019

Subject: Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for October 2019

Date: December 3, 2019

To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

From: Jeffrey Sinclair, Homelessness Action Plan Advisor and Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services

Further to council direction in October (COM 40-2019), staff will be providing 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 following highlights activities related to the HHAP in October 2019:

- An orientation was provided for community partners in the homeless serving system related to Built for Zero Canada (BFZ-C) and October saw the launch of Niagara's Built for Zero Home Team. The home team will advise local participation in the Built for Zero collective and support efforts to end chronic homelessness in Niagara.
- Work has begun to develop Niagara's (homeless) By Name List (client record system), to make homelessness services data available in real time and actionable on a systems level (Allowing Niagara to answer critical system questions as we implement changes to our local system – e.g. “Did homelessness decrease?”) and individual level (e.g. Did Larry get housed?). The By Name List will inform the creation of a coordinated access system, a standardized process for intake, assessment and referral across all providers within the homeless serving system.
- Niagara Region has received the final report from Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA), forecasting affordable housing need in Niagara out to 2041, and this invaluable data is supporting the current development of Niagara's affordable housing strategy, ensuring it is based on current and future need.
- Niagara Regional Housing's Scott Street site in St. Catharines has engaged students from Niagara College's recreation therapy and social service worker programs to support high needs residents to have more stable tenancies.
- Supporting continued public dialogue and engagement, information was provided on affordable housing and homelessness to the public through an information session

at the Grimsby Public Library and a panel discussion at the Niagara Falls Public Library.

- Niagara Regional Housing completed the build of 12 affordable and RGI (rent geared to income) housing units (including **eight net new units**) on Roach Avenue in Welland, supporting the goals of increasing both density and number of affordable housing units.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Homelessness Action Plan Advisor

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Commissioner