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## MEMORANDUM

**COM-C 2-2020**

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

**Date:** January 14, 2020

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

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

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

- The updated 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. Regional Council approved this plan in October 2019, pending Ministry approval. At the direction of Council, staff are preparing an information session about the updated action plan for Regional Councillors, and a presentation to be offered to local municipal councils in 2020.
- Through agency visits, and the launch of Niagara's inaugural Built for Zero Partner Newsletter in November 2019, staff provided information to homelessness service providers about the Built for Zero Canada (BFZ-C) initiative and its role in ending chronic homelessness in Niagara.
- The BFZ-C Home Team selected two areas of focus for the first half of 2020, to be initiated at the BFZ-C learning session for participating communities in Toronto in January 2020:
  - Mapping and coordinating street outreach
  - Promoting provider participation in common assessment.
- Niagara Region hosted a presentation by Iain De Jong to nearly 300 attendees, including elected officials, service providers and other stakeholders, at the Scotiabank Centre on December 19, 2019. Mr. De Jong, an internationally recognized expert on ending homelessness, challenged commonly held assumptions, debunked myths about homelessness and provided insight about effective evidence-based approaches to ending homelessness in the Canadian context.

- The tendering process to select providers for homelessness services in alignment with the revised system model during 2020-2022 continues, with submissions closed for four of six service categories:

Service Category	Status
Emergency Shelter	Bidding closed, proposals under review
Street Outreach	Bidding closed, proposals under review
Prevention	Bidding closed, proposals under review
Housing with Supports – Transitional Housing	Bidding closed January 7, 2020
Housing First	Bidding closes January 16, 2020
Home for Good	Bidding closes January 16, 2020

- The tendering process for a Regional investment of \$1.7 million in affordable housing through a joint venture model continues. Bidding closed in October 2019 and submitted proposals are currently under review.
- Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) hosted ONPHA's (Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association) Ready Set (re)Build training over two days in December 2019. Local non-profits, cooperatives, church groups, and a private sector participant attended to learn about how to successfully develop or redevelop affordable housing.
- In November, 12 households from the centralized housing waitlist moved into the newly completed units at Roach Avenue in Welland.
- Gateway Residential and Support Services (Gateway) prepared to accept 18 new Home for Good supportive housing clients experiencing chronic homelessness, into program spaces that will be available starting December 2019 through to February 2020. Eight of these clients will be housed at Gateway's new supportive housing facility in Port Colborne and 10 will be housed in Niagara's rental market with rent subsidy, case management and other more intensive supports. Clients were prioritized for access to these new program spaces through a process which incorporated components of coordinated access and common assessment of need in alignment with BFZ-C. These are significant steps in Niagara's effort to end chronic homelessness.
- Demolition began in December 2019 at the NRH Hawkins Street site in Niagara Falls, where intensification will add 62 net new community housing units (for a total of 74 units) with a target completion of summer 2021.

Respectfully submitted and signed by:

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Jeffrey Sinclair, BBA  
Homelessness Action Plan Advisor

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Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE  
Commissioner