



## **REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017**

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**SUBJECT**     **Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Future Capital Regional District Role**

### **ISSUE**

In preparation for the renewal of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), the Government of Canada is reviewing the program and has requested submissions from stakeholders and the public to identify the impacts the program is having as well as how it might be improved in the next phase of its implementation. The capital region's HPS Community Advisory Board has asked the CRD to consider joining it in making a submission to the review process.

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 2010, the CRD has, through an agreement with the Government of Canada, fulfilled the role of Community Entity (CE), making it responsible for managing the delivery of the HPS program in the capital region. The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, the HPS Community Advisory Board (CAB), originally requested that the CRD fulfill the CE role. In 2014, this relationship was renewed with the extension of the program for an additional five years.

During the Federal Budget announcements in 2017, the Government of Canada announced that the HPS program would be extended an additional 10 years commencing April 1, 2019. The current agreement between the CRD and the Government of Canada expires on March 31, 2019.

The Government of Canada further initiated a review of the HPS Program and appointed an Advisory Committee to oversee the review process. Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, the Minister of Children, Families and Social Development, is responsible for the delivery of the HPS Program and its current review. An engagement process has included targeted meetings with stakeholders as well as an opportunity for others to complete an online questionnaire. A formal submission for review by the Board is attached in Appendix A.

The CAB has recently submitted a letter to the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos as part of the review process. The letter provides comments with respect to the importance of the program in the capital region and feedback regarding its continued delivery in the region. The CAB also approved a resolution requesting that the CRD continue in its role as CE, and in the letter indicating support for the extension of the program and interest in continuing its relationship with the CRD as CE. The CAB further approved a resolution requesting the CRD consider making a similar submission, outlining its feedback and indicating its interest in maintaining its role as CE (see Appendix B).

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

Approve the Capital Regional District continuing in its role as the Community Entity for the delivery of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Program in the capital region, as per the proposed submission to the HPS review process presented in Appendix A.

#### *Alternative 2*

Refer the submission back to CRD staff with alternate direction.

**IMPLICATIONS****Intergovernmental Implications**

The CRD has had an ongoing, positive relationship with the Government of Canada in the delivery of the HPS program. The CRD, in conjunction with other organizations in the community, has been able to engage in effective, regionally-based planning and coordination of housing and services in the region, a key desired outcome of the HPS Program. This planning not only supports the delivery of HPS funded programs, it is also expected to provide an effective base for using HPS and other funding to support programs to augment the effective use of the housing units to be developed through the Regional Housing First Program. Continuing as the CE will allow the CRD to continue to positively influence and support the effectiveness of the overall system and so fulfill its commitments to addressing homelessness through actions outlined in the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy.

A renewed agreement between the CRD and the Government of Canada will be brought to the CRD Board once staff have received a draft of the document for review and approval.

**Financial Implications**

The Government of Canada is expected to continue the practice of compensating CEs for the costs associated with the delivery of the program. Current delivery of the program requires a minimal in-kind contribution of management staff time. Any financial implications will be outlined in the renewed agreement, which will be subject to further CRD Board approval.

**CONCLUSION**

The renewal of the HPS program by the Government of Canada provides an opportunity for the CRD to continue to play a substantial role in addressing homelessness in the region. With the review underway, it is an ideal time to respond to the request from the CAB to demonstrate, through this submission, the CRD's ongoing interest in fulfilling the role of CE for the HPS Program in the capital region. Continuing in this role supports actions outlined in the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy and sustains important partnerships in addressing homelessness in the region.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the Capital Regional District continuing in its role as the Community Entity for the delivery of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Program in the capital region, as per the proposed submission to the HPS review process presented in Appendix A.

Submitted by:	John Reilly, MSW RSW, Manager Housing Planning & Programs
Concurrence:	Christine Culham, Senior Manager Regional Housing
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P.Eng., MBA, General Manager Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

JR:gd

Attachments: Appendix A – Submission to the 2017 HPS Program Review

Appendix B – Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness letter to the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos