
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 18, 2001
FILE: 5040-20

TO: City Manager

FROM: Community Planning Manager

RE: 2001/2002 Contribution to the National Housing Resources Policy
Options Team

REPORT PREPARED BY: Theresa Eichler

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorize a \$0.015 per capita contribution to the National Housing Policy Options Team, towards its membership on the Team and the 2001/2002 budget;

AND THAT the funds be appropriated from Account No. 4105-10-170-0-001.

PURPOSE:

To address the funding request from the National Housing Policy Options Team (NHPOT) to contribute \$0.015 per capita towards their 2001/2002 budget, as a member of the Team.

BACKGROUND:

On January 8, 2001, Council approved the following motion:

***R13/01/01/08** THAT Council authorize a \$0.02 per capita contribution to the National Housing Policy Options Team, which will enable the City of Kelowna to be included on the steering committee and work to achieve adequate and appropriate federal and provincial spending to address housing needs at the local level.*

This was as a result of consideration of the FCM request for Kelowna to join the National Housing Policy Options Team that was received in 2000. Following review of the request by staff and the Community Housing Needs Committee, a recommendation to join the Team and pay the contribution was made in a planning report dated January 3, 2001.

REPORT

The January decision to join the National Housing Policy Options Team has been right in line with Official Community Plan policies that have been approved by the City since 1995. These are provided for convenience below:

Official Community Plan Policies:

Existing – Carried forward in the draft Official Community Plan

8. *Partnerships for Affordable Housing.* *Encourage the development of partnerships among community groups, non-profit organizations, the business community, professionals and all levels of government to provide affordable and special needs housing;*

11. *Federal and Provincial Involvement.* *Continue to encourage the Provincial and Federal governments to increase housing allocations to special needs housing;*

Since joining the Team, staff has been receiving regular updates of activities from the Team (primarily by email). The reports from the Team are published on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) web page www.fcm.ca under the “most request documents” menu from the home page. Titles to look for include:

- “Towards a National Housing Strategy”;
- “National Housing Policy Options Paper” and
- “FCM’s National Housing Affordable Housing Strategy”.

In March, staff participated in a conference call of municipal representatives from across the country in preparation for the presentation of CMHC’s announcements to Cabinet regarding provision of affordable rental housing. The Team found that the CMHC proposals did not begin to address the critical shortages in housing for the lowest-income populations in cities across the Country. A prepared statement was forwarded by Kelowna, (from the Mayor’s office) as a member of the Team, identifying the concerns regarding affordable housing, to several Cabinet Ministers and our MP. The Team continues to work with agencies, including the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA), to which the City is also a member, regarding statements by CMHC declaring that it will not return to providing social housing. Although there will be a continual battle to achieve solutions to low-income housing, the unified front for municipalities provided by the NHPOT, creates a much stronger position to the federal government on the many issues that are common to Kelowna and other major Canadian cities.

The February progress report from NHPOT, outlining the membership, activities, budget for 2001/2002, and request for a \$0.015 per capita contribution from the members to the proposed budget is attached for information. The City’s Community Housing Needs Committee approved the following recommendation to Council at its March meeting:

MOVED by Sam Neufeld/Seconded by Jean-Jacques Clermont-Ferrand

THAT the Community Housing Needs Committee recommend to Council that a contribution be made to the Nation Housing Policy Options Team in the amount of 1.5 cents per capita.

Motion **CARRIED**

The City’s contribution of \$0.015/capita, is less than \$1,500, depending on our latest population count. There is still \$9,000 left in the housing study budget that can be used to cover this contribution.

SUMMARY

The City of Kelowna joined the National Housing Policy Options Team in January of 2001. The Team's membership is made up of Canadian municipalities working to resolve low-income housing needs by communicating strategies to the federal government. The Team continues to provide a united front in pressuring the federal government to address critical low-income housing shortages in cities across the country. This action is consistent with Kelowna's OCP policy direction since 1995. This report requests authorization to make a \$0.015 per capita contribution for the next year's budget for the Team.

Theresa Eichler, MCIP
Community Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion

R.L. (Ron) Mattiussi, ACP, MCIP
Director of Planning & Development Services

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