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## City of Kelowna

# MEMORANDUM

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DATE: July 10, 2001  
FILE: 5040-20  
TO: City Manager  
FROM: Community Planning Manager  
RE: Homelessness Steering Committee, Supporting Community Partners Initiative, HRDC

REPORT PREPARED BY: Theresa Eichler

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council receive this report, regarding the federal Supporting Community Partners Initiative to address homelessness issues in Kelowna, for information.

**PURPOSE:**

This report is submitted for information purposes to Council

**BACKGROUND:**

Council is aware of the Big City Mayors efforts to identify homelessness as a crisis across the Country. This effort has now evolved into the National Housing Policy Options Team (NHPOT). The City of Kelowna joined NHPOT in 2000, based on the recommendation that was adopted by Council. NHPOT members communicate through email and conference telephone calls. There was information on the National Housing efforts at the recent FCM conference held in Banff.

Partially as a result of the efforts of municipalities across the country to communicate the homelessness crisis to the federal government, commitments to spending by the federal government have been made for a total of \$753 million, known as the Homelessness Initiative, across the country. Kelowna has been identified as one of the communities to benefit from federal spending to address homelessness.

**REPORT:**

At the beginning of this year, the HRDC representative on behalf of the Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) called together as many stakeholders as possible to discuss the need to prepare a community plan to determine spending of federal money to address homelessness in the City of Kelowna. A steering committee was established with 16 voting members from a wide variety of agencies. There are also more than 30 representatives of various agencies that participate as ex-officio or non-voting members. From a City staff perspective, the Community Planning Manager has participated as a non-voting member, providing information and assistance, as needed. The City has also been involved in the SCPI process by the participation of members of the Community Housing Needs Committee, including the Chair. In addition, the Chair of the SCPI Steering Committee is Michael Loewen, Executive Director of the United Way, who is also a member of the City's Social Planning Board.

The Community Plan for the SCPI program for Kelowna is now almost complete. Over a period of three years, ending in 2003, \$1,340,377 is to be spent under the SCPI program in the city of Kelowna. The steering committee has identified priorities, including a women's shelter, a youth detoxification facility, a nutritional supplement program, transitional housing for aboriginal youth, and outreach workers. The steering committee will likely continue to meet to implement the community plan and evaluate submissions for funding. Partnerships for funding are sought from other agencies in the City, including other levels of government and private organizations. In addition to the SCPI funding, commitments of \$254,400 and \$299,570 to homelessness over the three year period have been made for the city of Kelowna under the federal Youth Homeless Initiative and the federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy, respectively.

Michael Loewen, Chair of the SCPI Steering Committee, will be available to add a few comments and answer questions. Other members of the Steering Committee may be in attendance at the Council Meeting and would also be pleased to answer any questions of Council.

#### SUMMARY

This report serves to inform City Council regarding the work towards a Community Plan to address how \$1,340,377 of federal money under the HRDC Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative will be spent in the city of Kelowna over a three year time frame. It identifies the City's role, up to the present, in this process.

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Theresa Eichler, MCIP  
Community Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion

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

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