



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Planning Committee
FROM: Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
RE: **FUNDING REQUEST FROM FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES TO
SUPPORT THE NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY OPTIONS TEAM**

TO PLANNING - July 17, 2001
DATE: June 22, 2001
FILE: 4057-05

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

“Support the work of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ National Housing Policy Options Team (NHPOT) through a once only (2001) financial contribution of \$2,396.58 (based on 1.5 cents per capita and a current population estimate of 159,772) but decline the invitation to become a full member on the NHPOT Steering Committee.”

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance and Corporate Services	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

The City has received a funding request from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to support the work of the National Housing Policy Options Team (**Attachment 1**).

This report:

- provides background on the National Housing Policy Options Team;
- presents options for Council's consideration, and;
- provides a recommendation on City support .

FINDINGS OF FACT

FCM has requested that the City consider financial support, in the amount of a once only contribution of 1.5 cents per capita, to assist the work of the National Housing Policy Options Team (NHPOT). This contribution would entitle the City to a position on the NHPOT's Steering Committee.

The NHPOT is an initiative of FCM and comprises municipal leaders and expert housing staff from across Canada who work with and support many organizations in Canada on affordable housing and social services. It was formed in 1999 following the declaration by the FCM Big City Mayor's Caucus of homelessness as a "national disaster". The Team's goal is to reduce the national homelessness and affordable housing crisis by one half over the next decade. It's work is funded by voluntary contributions from Canadian municipalities. A list of current municipal contributors to the Team is included in **Attachment 2**.

FCM has been active over the years in addressing homelessness issues on behalf of its member municipalities across Canada. Key, recent initiatives have included the *National Housing Policy Paper: A Call for Action* (1999) and *National Affordable Housing Strategy* (2000). These important documents have been instrumental to FCM in its efforts at getting affordable housing on the agendas of senior government, particularly at the federal level.

One of NHPOT's key roles is to undertake research, policy development and promoting action on affordable housing issues on behalf of the FCM with senior governments. Specific attention and efforts have been paid to working with the federal government to ensure that affordable housing is considered and included in federal budgets. The NHPOT's strategy and budget for 2001/2002 is included in **Attachment 3**.

ANALYSIS

The funding request of 1.5 cents per capita for Richmond calculates to \$2,396.58 based on a current 2001 City population estimate of 159,772. The funds would entitle the City to a seat on the NHPOT Steering Committee and would support the work of the NHPOT, specifically to assist in its ongoing research, policy development and promotional efforts with senior governments on behalf of Canadian municipalities.

Financial Background

This proposal would be in addition to the \$14,689 annual membership fee which the City currently pays to the FCM. This is based on an amount of .098 cents per capita plus a \$100 fee using the City's 1996 population of 148,000.

Options

Council could consider the following three options:

- Not support the funding request;
- Support the funding request and commit sending a City representative to the Steering Committee;
- Support the funding request without committing a representative to the Steering Committee.

Option 1: Not support the funding request

Pros:

- The City could determine that its existing annual membership fee to FCM is sufficient and that the additional \$2,396.58 fee could be better spent on other City priorities.

Cons:

- Although the City can continue to voice its opinion and ask senior government to address affordable housing issues, opportunities for collective and potentially more effective initiatives with other municipalities through NHPOT will be lost;
- Limits opportunities for information sharing and networking with other municipalities on affordable housing.

Option 2: Support the funding request and commit sending a city representative (Councillor or staff) to the Steering Committee

Pros:

- Would be able to have "first hand" and direct input into Committee discussions and affordable housing policy development, as well as directly convey Richmond's perspective and experience to the Steering Committee;
- Supports and complements the City's current involvement in affordable housing;
- Information sharing across the country with other municipalities; provides network opportunities with other municipalities which share affordable housing issues.

Cons:

- May be difficult to commit council/staff time to participate on the Steering Committee. FCM staff have indicated that minimum time commitments and responsibilities of Committee membership includes meeting via conference call for about one hour every month plus a half day per month reviewing written material and other meeting preparation.

Option 3: Support the funding request to assist the work of the NHPOT without committing to send a representative to the Steering Committee table.

Pros:

- Supports and complements the City's involvement in affordable housing;
- Does not commit Council/staff time to Steering Committee work;
- Information sharing across the country with other municipalities; provides network opportunities with other municipalities which share affordable housing issues;
- Richmond's voice can be added to the affordable housing efforts by FCM to the federal government;
- Financial support to the NHPOT would continue to demonstrate the City's interest and active participation in addressing affordable housing.

Cons:

- Does not provide for direct opportunities for input into Steering Committee discussions and decision making

Preferred Option:

Based on the preceding analysis, and particularly given the time commitments that would be required for a City representative to become involved directly on the Steering Committee, staff recommend that Council support Option 3.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

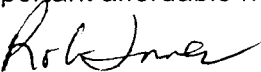
City support for the NHPOT involves the once only expenditure of \$2,396.58 (based on 1.5 cents per capita and a current 2001 population estimate of 159,772).

The \$2,396.58 would come from the approved 2001 Council Contingency Account.

CONCLUSION

Over the years the City has taken a proactive approach and has been an active partner with the private sector and other levels of government in seeking solutions to address affordable housing in Richmond. Components of the City's Affordable Housing Strategy, such as the Affordable Housing Statutory Reserve Fund, the City's Ground Lease Program and other initiatives have been widely recognized as positive steps to address housing affordability. This includes the City's recently completed Affordable Seniors Supportive Housing Study which was funded in part by the FCM's ACT grant program. The City has also recently supported the principles of the Regional Homelessness Plan and the submission of an application, on behalf of a number of Richmond community stakeholders, for funding for a local homelessness needs assessment and implementation strategy. In the past, the City has also added its voice, through various resolutions on a number of issues, to the call for an enhanced senior government role in affordable housing.

Financial support of the NHPOT will help strengthen the City's research and advocacy work on important affordable housing issues.



Rob Innes
Planner

RI:cas



Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Fédération canadienne des municipalités

TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR
FROM: CITY CLERK

PC: *City Manager*
Urban Dev
for appropriate action
April 19, 2001

J	JEAN	JEAN
DW		
KY		
AS		
DB		
SF		

PHOTOCOPIED & DISTRIBUTED
DATE: *May 3/01 RS*

Mr. George Duncan, Chief Administrative Officer
City of Richmond
6911 No 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

4057-05

- Councillor Joanne Monaghan
Kitimat, British Columbia
President
Présidente
- Councillor Jack Layton
Toronto, Ontario
First Vice President
Premier vice président
- Alderman John Schmal
Calgary, Alberta
Second Vice President
Deuxième vice président
- Maire Yves Ducharme
Hull (Québec)
Third Vice President
Troisième vice président
- Mayor Sam Synard
Marystown, Newfoundland and Labrador
Past President
Président sortant
- James W. Knight
Chief Executive Officer
Chef de la direction

To Members of Council, c/o the Municipal Clerk:

Please bring this funding request from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, for the National Housing Policy Options Team, to your council at the earliest opportunity.

At their February meeting in Ottawa, the mayors of Canada's largest cities agreed that FCM must continue to press for a national housing strategy, to relieve the burden of homelessness and unaffordable rental housing from our municipalities.

The FCM Big City Mayors Caucus and the Board of Directors of FCM endorsed continuing support for the FCM National Housing Policy Options Team's work for the upcoming year in the form of a voluntary 1.5 cent per capita contribution. We at FCM hope that you will support us in our efforts and contribute at the suggested level.

Not only have many big cities joined the effort, but many mid-sized and smaller communities have lent their support (see the attached list).

Participation at the level of 1.5 cent per capita entitles the donor to a position on the National Housing Policy Options Team (NHPOT) Steering Committee. If you cannot contribute at this level, we welcome any contribution that you may be able to make.

We have made great progress since our beginnings late in 1998. Last year, we saw the federal government's first acknowledgement of the need, with funding for homelessness initiatives, expansion of the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program and inclusion in the federal budget of a GST rebate for new rental housing.

24 rue Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3
 ☎ (613) 241-5221
 📠 (613) 241-7440
 federation@fcm.ca
 Web site/site web : www.fcm.ca

Policy and Public Affairs
Politiques et affaires publiques
 ☎ (613) 244-2250
 policy@fcm.ca

Sustainable Communities and Environmental Policy
Collectivités viables et politiques environnementales
 ☎ (613) 244-1515
 communities@fcm.ca

Corporate Development
Développement corporatif
 ☎ (613) 241-2126
 corporate@fcm.ca

City of Richmond
RECEIVED
APR 30 2001
CAO's OFFICE

CITY OF RICHMOND
DATE
.../2
MAY - 1 2001
RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

174

Mission Statement
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is the national voice of municipal governments, dedicated to improving the quality of life in all communities by promoting strong, effective and accountable municipal government.

Énoncé de mission
La Fédération canadienne des municipalités est la voix nationale des gouvernements municipaux. Son mandat est de contribuer à l'amélioration de la qualité de vie dans toutes les communautés et de promouvoir un gouvernement municipal fort, efficace et responsable.



This year, we have caused the federal government to solidify its decision to address the housing problem, with its *Red Book III* commitment to fund the creation of 60,000 to 120,000 units of affordable rental housing over the next four years, in concert with the provincial and territorial governments.

FCM's National Housing Policy Options Team (NHPOT) has been at the forefront of these developments. We are currently pressing to ensure that the Red Book commitment is implemented to help those of our citizens who truly need assistance.

Over the next year, the NHPOT will also work to implement the balance of our policy options, including means to ensure that the private sector re-enters the market, in partnership with all orders of government, for a long-term solution to the current crisis. The enclosed report, entitled "A National Housing Strategy", sets out these options in detail. We hope you can make good use of the thousand of pages of NHPOT research contained in the enclosed CD. A preliminary NHPOT budget for 2001/2002 is also attached, as well as a voluntary contribution form, in lieu of an invoice.

* 50 page doc
available in
City Clerk's
Office

I hope that you will join us this year. We need your support and expertise on our side.

Please call John Burrett, at FCM, (613) 241-5221 (244), (jburrett@fcm.ca), who will be pleased to answer any questions you may have on our work.

Yours truly,



Jack Layton
FCM 1st Vice President
Co-Chair, National Housing Policy Options Team

JL/jb,nfl

**FCM National Housing Policy Options Team
Contributors 2000-2001**

- City of Surrey
- City of Vancouver
- City of Victoria
- City of Calgary
- City of Edmonton
- City of Regina
- City of London
- City of Toronto
- City of Mississauga
- Regional Municipality of Hamilton- Wentworth
- Region of Peel
- City of Saskatoon
- City of Ottawa
- Regional Municipality of Sudbury
- Regional Municipality of Waterloo
- Communauté urbaine de Québec
- Ville de Laval
- City of St. John's
- City of North Vancouver
- City of Red Deer
- City of Victoria
- City of Lethbridge
- City of Chilliwack
- Strathcona County
- Ville de Gatineau
- City of Kamloops
- City of Nepean
- Ville de Sherbrooke
- City of New Westminster
- District of North Vancouver
- Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
- Town of Oakville
- Township of Langley
- City of Cornwall
- City of St. Albert
- York Region
- Regional Municipality of Halifax
- Ville de Hull
- City of Kelowna
- Regional Municipality of Durham

ANNEX A**National Housing Policy Options Team Strategy 2001/2002**

Over the next year the NHPOT will work to:

- expand the funding committed to the Affordable Rental Program, to enable production of affordable units, at the level of annual production identified by FCM.
- ensure that the Affordable Rental Program is delivered so as to maximize the flexibility for locally-designed housing solutions. As proposed in “A National Affordable Housing Strategy”, local designs should include production of new units, acquisition and rehabilitation of existing units and, where it is most cost effective, homeownership assistance.
- Promote the option of national and local-level housing trusts, in co-operation where possible with provincial/territorial governments, as a vehicle for managing the use of federal funds for capital grants, to ensure maximum flexibility and effectiveness.
- Promote FCM's proposals relating to tax regulations and mortgage insurance underwriting criteria. This could take place in the context of an upcoming federal budget, or in the context of ongoing discussions organized by the CHRA and ONPHA with the financial industry.
- Promote FCM's proposals for rent supplement and shelter-related income assistance, as a complement to a capital grants program.
- Pursue voluntary disclosure by Canadian financial institutions of mortgage lending data and adoption of progressive mortgage lending practices similar to those developed in the United States.
- Work with the National Secretariat on Homelessness to promote the effectiveness of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative and FCM-led housing initiatives to combat homelessness.
- Continue and further develop relationships with other organizations in the field and carry on an effective national communications role with FCM members and other groups.

Proposed NHPOT Budget for 2001-2002

The following is a preliminary budget for NHPOT activities for the next year. This budget is based on a request of 1.5 cents per capita from interested municipalities. With current membership, this would allow a budget of approximately \$148,000.

Proposed NHPOT Budget: 2001-2002		
Category	Budgeted Amount	Notes
FCM Support	\$60,000	1
Consultants	\$47,000	2
Travel/Accommodation	\$14,000	
Teleconferencing, faxes, other electronic communications	\$12,000	
Printing, postage, non-electronic communications	\$5,000	
Translation	\$5,000	
Contingency	\$5,000	
Total Budget	\$148,000	

Notes:

1. FCM support contains charges for a portion of FCM staff time and administration.
2. Consulting work will concentrate on provision of expertise in strategy and lobbying, housing program design, taxation and law.