

Vision: *The City of Greater Sudbury is a growing, world-class community bringing talent, technology and a great northern lifestyle together.*

Vision: *La Ville du Grand Sudbury est une communauté croissante de calibre international qui rassemble les talents, les technologies et le style de vie exceptionnel du Nord.*



Agenda

Policy Committee

meeting to be held

Wednesday, August 11st, 2010

at 2:00 pm

Council Chamber, Tom Davies Square

Ordre du jour

réunion du

Comité des politiques

qui aura lieu

mercredi 11^e août 2010

à 14h 00

dans la Salle du Conseil, Place Tom Davies

POLICY COMMITTEE AGENDA

For the 59th Policy Committee Meeting
to be held on **Wednesday, August 11, 2010**
Council Chamber, Tom Davies Square at 2:00 pm

COUNCILLOR DOUG CRAIG, CHAIR

Jacques Barbeau, Vice-Chair

(PLEASE ENSURE CELL PHONES AND PAGERS ARE TURNED OFF)

The Council Chamber of Tom Davies Square is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please speak to the City Clerk prior to the meeting if you require a hearing amplification device. Persons requiring assistance are requested to contact the City Clerks Office at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting if special arrangements are required. Please call (705) 674-4455, extension 2471. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TTY) (705) 688-3919. Copies of Agendas can be viewed at www.greatersudbury.ca/agendas/.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

COMMUNITY DELEGATIONS

1. Anti-Idling
(ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION) (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

- Mercedes Quinlan, Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury

(The presentation will address the negative effects of idling on the environment, vehicles and health. This presentation was made to the Planning Committee on June 21, 2010 and it was suggested by a Member of Council that the presentation be made to the Policy Committee.)

PRESENTATIONS

2. Update on Workplace Violence and Harassment Legislation
(ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION) (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

- Kevin Fowke, Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development

(The presentation will provide an update to Council on CGS's compliance with the requirements of Bill 168, an Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act, which became effective on June 15th, 2010. This presentation will also constitute Council's training on the requirements for all Employees, Contractors, Visitors and Counsellors while attending a CGS worksite.)

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

REFERRED & DEFERRED MATTERS

MANAGERS' REPORTS

3. Report dated August 4, 2010 from the Executive Director, Administrative Services regarding CGS International Disaster Response Policy.
(RECOMMENDATION PREPARED)

9 - 14

(Council requested that "a policy be prepared regarding the making of donations" to disaster relief efforts. The proposed policy is modelled on the policies of other municipalities and reflects the practice of encouraging broad community support and generosity for relief efforts while respecting the role and function of the municipality.)

4. Report dated July 28, 2010 from the General Manager of Growth and Development regarding Changes to 2011 Census. **15 - 20**
(RECOMMENDATION PREPARED)

(This report describes proposed changes to the 2011 Census, primarily the removal of the long form and its replacement with a voluntary survey.)

5. Report dated August 4, 2010 from the General Manager of Growth and Development regarding Options for Homes Greater Sudbury - Deferral of Development Charges and Other Fees. **21 - 26**
(FOR DIRECTION ONLY)

(Council is being asked to provide direction to staff to analyse the implications of providing assistance in the form of a deferral of development charges and other fees for the Options for Homes Greater Sudbury proposed development.)

MOTIONS

ADDENDUM

CITIZEN PETITIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICES OF MOTION

ADJOURNMENT (RECOMMENDATION PREPARED)

Councillor Doug Craig
Chair

Franca Bortolussi
Council Secretary

COMITÉ DES POLITIQUES ORDRE DU JOUR

Pour la 59^e réunion du Comité des politiques
qui aura lieu le **11 août 2010**
dans la Salle du Conseil, Place Tom Davies, à 14h 00

CONSEILLER DOUG CRAIG, PRÉSIDENT(E)

Jacques Barbeau, Vice-président(e)

VEUILLEZ ÉTEINDRE LES TÉLÉPHONES CELLULAIRES ET LES TÉLÉAVERTISSEURS)
La salle du

La salle du Conseil de la Place Tom Davies est accessible pour les personnes handicapées. Si vous désirez obtenir un appareil auditif, veuillez communiquer avec la greffière municipale, avant la réunion. Les personnes qui prévoient avoir besoin d'aide doivent s'adresser au bureau du greffier municipal au moins 24 heures avant la réunion aux fins de dispositions spéciales. Veuillez composer le 705-674-4455, poste 2471; appareils de télécommunications pour les malentendants (ATS) 705-688-3919. Vous pouvez consulter l'ordre du jour à l'adresse www.greatersudbury.ca/agendas/.

DÉCLARATION D'INTÉRÊTS PÉCUNIAIRES ET LEUR NATURE GÉNÉRALES

DÉLÉGATIONS DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ

1. Anti-ralenti

(PRÉSENTATION ÉLECTRONIQUE) (A TITRE D'INFORMATION)

- Mercedez Quinlan, Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury

(La présentation abordera les effets négatifs de la marche au ralenti sur l'environnement, les véhicules et la santé. Cette présentation a été faite au Comité de planification le 21 juin 2010 et un membre du Conseil municipal a suggéré de la faire au Comité des politiques.)

PRÉSENTATIONS ET EXPOSÉS

2. Compte rendu sur le projet de loi sur la violence et le harcèlement en milieu de travail

(PRÉSENTATION ÉLECTRONIQUE) (A TITRE D'INFORMATION)

- Kevin Fowke, directeur des Ressources humaines et du Développement organisationnel

(La présentation donnera un compte rendu au Conseil municipal sur la conformité de la VGS aux exigences du projet de loi 168, la Loi modifiant la Loi sur la santé et la sécurité au travail, qui est entrée en vigueur le 15 juin 2010. Cette présentation constituera aussi une formation du Conseil municipal sur les exigences pour tous les membres du personnel, les entrepreneurs, les visiteurs et les membres du Conseil municipal lorsqu'ils se trouvent dans un lieu de travail de la VGS.)

CORRESPONDANCE À TITRE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS SEULEMENT

QUESTION RENVOYÉES ET REPORTÉES

RAPPORTS DES GESTIONNAIRES

3. Rapport de la directrice exécutive des Services administratifs, daté du 04 août 2010 portant sur Politique d'intervention en cas de catastrophe dans un autre pays de la VGS.

9 - 14

(RECOMMANDATION PRÉPARÉE)

(Le Conseil municipal a demandé qu'une politique soit rédigée au sujet des dons à des efforts de secours en cas de catastrophe. La politique proposée suit le modèle des politiques d'autres municipalités et reflète la pratique d'encourager le soutien et la générosité de l'ensemble de la communauté quant aux efforts de secours tout en respectant le rôle et la fonction de la municipalité.)

4. Rapport du directeur général de la croissance et du développement, daté du 28 juillet 2010 portant sur Modifications au recensement de 2011. **15 - 20**

(RECOMMANDATION PRÉPARÉE)

(Ce rapport décrit les modifications proposées au recensement de 2011, principalement en ce qui a trait à l'élimination du questionnaire long et à son remplacement par une enquête à participation volontaire.)

5. Rapport du directeur général de la croissance et du développement, daté du 04 août 2010 portant sur Options for Homes Greater Sudbury – report de la redevance d'aménagement et d'autres droits . **21 - 26**

(A TITRE DE DIRECTION)

(On demande au Conseil municipal de donner des directives à suivre au personnel afin d'analyser les répercussions d'accorder une aide sous forme de report de redevances d'aménagement et d'autres frais pour l'aménagement proposé par Options for Homes Greater Sudbury.)

MOTIONS

ADDENDA

PÉTITIONS DE CITOYENS

ANNONCES

AVIS DE MOTION

LEVÉE DE LA SÉANCE(RECOMMANDATION PRÉPARÉE)

Le Conseiller Doug Craig,
Présidente

Franca Bortolussi,
Secrétaire du conseil

Request for Decision

CGS International Disaster Response Policy

Presented To:	Policy Committee
Presented:	Wednesday, Aug 11, 2010
Report Date	Wednesday, Aug 04, 2010
Type:	Managers' Reports

Recommendation

THAT Council adopt the City of Greater Sudbury International Disaster Response Policy as recommended in the Report of the Executive Director, Administrative Services dated August 4, 2010.

Executive Summary

In response to the earthquake which devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010, Council requested that a policy be prepared regarding the making of donations in support of international disasters.

The International Red Cross defines a disaster as *"a calamitous event resulting in loss of life, great human suffering and distress and large scale material damage."*

This report considers roles and responsibilities for international relief and aid, including how other municipalities respond to international disasters, and makes recommendations as to a policy framework for how the City of Greater Sudbury might respond to future international disasters of significant magnitude.

Background

Roles and Responsibilities:

Many municipalities and media outlets have commented on the need to understand and reflect upon whose responsibility it is to respond to international disasters, as part of the process for making decisions regarding disaster relief.

The Federal Government is responsible for foreign affairs and international aid and has an established structure in that regard. According to the Federal Budget 2010, the International Assistance Envelope is budgeted at \$5 billion annually.

The Canadian International Development Agency *"is Canada's lead agency for development assistance"*

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Caroline Hallsworth
Executive Director, Administrative
Services

Digitally Signed Aug 4, 10

Recommended by the Department

Caroline Hallsworth
Executive Director, Administrative
Services

Digitally Signed Aug 4, 10

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Aug 5, 10

and has specific programs to provide humanitarian response to international crises, including those caused by natural disasters. Many other federal government departments and agencies also respond in times of international crisis. By example, following the earthquake in Haiti, Federal Government Officials and consular staff were joined in Haiti by over 2,000 Canadian Forces personnel and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In addition, the Federal Government matched donations made by individual Canadians, which amount was estimated to be close to \$130 million.

Responses of Other Municipalities to International Disasters:

Municipalities have had varied responses to a number of recent international disasters. In addition to the most recent natural disaster in Haiti, some municipalities have taken actions or made donations towards other calamitous events, including but not limited to the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004, Hurricane Katrina in the United States in 2005 and earthquakes in China in 2008 and Italy in 2009.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities website includes a page entitled “*Actions Towards Relief Efforts in Haiti*” which outlines the actions taken by thirty-four municipalities and seven organizations representing municipalities following the 2010 Haitian Earthquake. This webpage provides a good, representative summary of how municipalities across Canada have responded to the crisis in Haiti.

Of the thirty-four municipalities listed, sixteen made direct financial donations in varying amounts. Of those donations, only three were in amounts larger than \$10,000 and six were donations of \$1,000 or less. Similar to Greater Sudbury, a few municipalities organized fundraising events for citizens or employees, with Leduc Alberta raising \$15,185 and New Glasgow Nova Scotia raising \$11,000.

Eleven of those municipalities that reported on their activities offered technical or other assistance through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Halton, Montreal and Quebec City deployed either police or emergency personnel to Haiti.

Other initiatives included a payroll deduction program for employee donations and a municipality which waived rental fees in support of a community fundraiser. Some of the municipalities publically encouraged citizens to make personal donations to registered charities.

All of the seven organizations representing municipalities conducted awareness initiatives to promote donations to charitable organizations working on relief and to update their members on reconstruction work. Some also encouraged or managed donations from and on behalf of their members.

Early in 2010, the City of Greater Sudbury participated in a survey of eleven Ontario municipalities with regards to donations to Haiti. Of the municipalities surveyed, two had made donations to Haiti in 2010 and two had made donations to the 2004 Tsunami relief. York noted that the municipal donation made to the Tsunami relief had received significant public backlash and they would not be donating to Haiti. London collected donations from employees and Windsor was looking at fundraising that did not involve tax dollars. The other municipalities surveyed had not made donations to Haiti.

City of Greater Sudbury's Response to Recent International Disasters:

The City of Greater Sudbury has responded to two international disasters in the past year. In the case of the earthquake which shook Aquila, Italy, a book of condolences was prepared for residents to sign and citizens were encouraged to make donations to relief organizations like the Canadian Red Cross. Council matched the funds raised by staff through the dress down days.

In the case of the Haiti earthquake, Council made a public appeal to citizens to donate to registered charities of their choice, and also invited the Canadian Red Cross to set up a donation table at Tom Davies Square. Proceeds of a dress down day held on January 22, 2010 were donated by employees to the Canadian Red Cross in support of earthquake relief. Employees raised \$16,915 for Mission of TEARS through a jug curling fundraising event “Hurry! For Haiti” held in April 2010.

City of Greater Sudbury Related Policy Contexts:

The City of Greater Sudbury’s key strategic plans support the development of healthy, sustainable communities in a way that is fiscally responsible.

Specifically, Digging Deeper, Coming of Age in the 21st Century speaks to the cultivation of “*effective partnerships . . . for the transfer of knowledge and skills training*”. The Healthy Community Charter focus on civic engagement and social capital “*adds economic, environmental and social value through collective and corporate social responsibility*”. The Long Term Financial Plan speaks to ensuring the “*long term-financial sustainability*” of the municipality while meeting “*social equity objectives through specific programs*” and the Official Plan identifies that Greater Sudbury is a “*sustainable community*” recognized as a world leader in environmental protection and “*remediation of environmentally damaged lands*”.

Municipal Policies on International Disaster Relief:

Despite extensive research, the only Municipal Policy on International Disaster Relief that was found was the policy approved by the City of Toronto in 2006.

In approaching the development of an International Disaster Relief Policy, Toronto consulted “*GTA municipalities and other big cities in Canada*”. Their findings were that:

Most municipalities do not have formal policies and do not support cash donations directly from municipalities to affected areas or regions. Many municipalities emphasized that international disaster relief was not within municipal jurisdiction and they did not have the financial means to provide relief.

Toronto also consulted the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Red Cross as both organizations have “*expertise in providing on the ground assistance*” in disaster response. According to the Toronto report:

Discussions with FCM and the Red Cross confirmed challenges associated with donating equipment, vehicles and supplies directly to affected areas. Both also indicated that while donations of funds is helpful, relief efforts typically fall short in the availability of skilled people to assist with efforts.

The policy which Toronto ultimately developed recognized that although the municipality had no formal responsibility or jurisdiction for disaster relief or assistance, the niche that the municipality could fill in terms of disaster relief, lies in the “*strength of a diverse and highly skilled City workforce that could be of assistance when an international disaster strikes.*”

It is now a matter of policy in Toronto that when an international disaster, as defined by the International Red Cross occurs, there are a number of

Actions the City will not undertake due to the challenges they present in terms of cost, effectiveness and

logistics:

- *The City will not self-deploy staff to the affected region;*
- *The City will not donate funds to an affected area or agency;*
- *The City will not collect funds on behalf of an agency; and*
- *The City will not donate excess vehicles or equipment.*

Rather, the City of Toronto focuses on the lending of expertise. This might be through the deployment of staff at the request of Emergency Measures Ontario or the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to assist with immediate first response, such as search and rescue, clean-up and rebuilding. Toronto will also consider deploying staff in support of capacity building projects as co-ordinated by FCM. In addition, Toronto authorized the creation of an international disaster relief fund, capped at no more than \$50,000 and paid for from the sale of surplus fleet and equipment, to “*supplement unforeseen costs associated in our long-term capacity building partnerships*”.

Toronto has participated in a few long-term capacity building partnerships, including a partnership through FCM’s tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction programs. Each of these partnership requests has been considered on a case-by-case basis and reported to Council. For example in 2006, three City of Toronto staff participated in technical exchange missions in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, focused on water drainage and waste collection.

How Municipalities Can Contribute to International Relief and Development:

As noted earlier in this report, many municipalities have responded to international disasters, by expressing their willingness to provide technical assistance in support of either community rebuilding or capacity building in areas affected by natural disasters. Municipal staff often has strong and unique skill sets which can be of considerable value to communities that are rebuilding. These areas can include (but are not limited to) water and wastewater treatment and delivery systems; fire, police and emergency response; solid waste collection and recycling; elections and governance; environmental remediation; housing; and social services.

There are different ways in which municipalities can participate in international relief efforts through this program, including municipal partnerships geared towards building capacity and hosting individuals from developing countries who wish to learn from Canadian municipalities. In addition to helping developing countries or areas hit by a natural disaster to develop technical skills and capacity, these programs provide unique professional development opportunities for Canadian municipal employees and foster both professional and trade links at home and abroad.

Most municipalities, who participate in programs that involve their staff, do so through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). FCM is recognized by the United Nations for its international development work and receives funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for these programs. Specifically, travel, accommodation and meal costs for participants are covered by FCM/CIDA while municipalities contribute staff time to participate in, or host, technical missions.

Summary:

Based on the research and examples of how other municipalities respond to international disaster relief and recognizing that the jurisdiction for such relief lies with the Federal government, a draft “International Disaster Response Policy” has been developed for Council’s consideration.

The draft policy focuses on promoting individual donations from citizens in the community and encouraging donations from employees. The policy also introduces the concept of future participation in capacity building initiatives through FCM, which participation would be presented to Council for decision should such opportunities arise.

The policy specifically states that the City of Greater Sudbury will not directly make donations of money or equipment to relief organizations and others involved in the response to the international disaster.

Draft City of Greater Sudbury International Disaster Response Policy

The City of Greater Sudbury supports a healthy, sustainable and fiscally responsible response to the provision of municipal support to international disasters.

When an international disaster, defined by the International Red Cross as "*a calamitous event resulting in loss of life, great human suffering and distress and large scale material damage*" occurs and is recognized by the Government of Canada and international disaster relief organizations, the of City of Greater Sudbury will:

- Encourage and promote individual citizen donations, to recognized charitable organizations, in support of international disaster relief operations;
- Provide in-kind support to CGS employee fund-raising efforts in support of the international disaster;
- Identify to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) the City of Greater Sudbury's willingness to explore the possibility of providing staff time to participate on technical missions in support of rebuilding capacity in the affected region, subject to Council approval of each such mission.

The City of Greater Sudbury will not make direct donations of money or equipment to relief organizations and others involved in the response to the international disaster.

Request for Decision

Changes to 2011 Census

Presented To:	Policy Committee
Presented:	Wednesday, Aug 11, 2010
Report Date	Wednesday, Jul 28, 2010
Type:	Managers' Reports

Recommendation

That Council request that the Federal Government maintain the current long form and mandatory reporting requirements and not proceed to a voluntary National Household Survey process.

Background

The Canadian Government recently announced that it will no longer be using the census long form for the 2011 Census. The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed changes to the 2011 Census and how they could impact the City of Greater Sudbury.

Proposed Changes to the 2011 Census

For the past 35 years, the Census has been comprised of two separate forms: a short form and a long form, both of which must be completed by law. The short form is sent to 100% of Canadians and gathers data on the topics of age, gender, marital status, household characteristics (e.g. number of dependents), and mother tongue language. The long form is sent to one in five Canadians (20% sample) and extrapolated to the rest of the population. The long census form is the only source of regular, detailed and consistent data (35 year archive of directly comparable data) on socio-economic information. The data collected on the long forms includes activity limitations, ethnicity, culture, immigrant status, income, education, labour-force, and housing. The Federal Government plans to replace the mandatory census long form with a voluntary National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS has not yet been released, but it is expected to contain the same long form questions of the 2006 census. The NHS is proposed to be conducted within four weeks of the May 2011 Census and will be sent to approximately 4.5 million Canadian households (one in three Canadians). This represents a 13% increase in distribution compared to the 2006 Census long form, albeit without a legal mandate to respond to the NHS questions.

Potential Issues with Data Accuracy

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Kris Longston
Senior Planner
Digitally Signed Jul 28, 10

Division Review

Paul Baskcomb
Director of Planning Services
Digitally Signed Jul 28, 10

Recommended by the Department

Bill Lautenbach
General Manager of Growth and Development
Digitally Signed Jul 28, 10

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Aug 6, 10

The City of Greater Sudbury is a heavy user of Census data, therefore any changes to the type of census data or the manner in which it's collected will impact the accuracy of different City projections and plans that use the data.

The proposed NHS will be a voluntary survey, meaning that the resulting data may not be statistically valid and thus reliable as a resource for effective service planning. Essentially, asking more people to voluntarily complete the NHS questionnaire does not mean that the data generated will be useable or is comparable to the traditional mandatory long form census data. By definition, a change in statistical collection methodology precludes direct statistical comparison of data gathered before and after the change. To date, Statistics Canada's adherence to the same statistical collection methodology for 35 years has allowed for accurate data comparison and invaluable trends analysis. While some comparative analysis may be possible between previous long form census data and NHS model data, direct accurate data comparison and trend analysis will not be possible. Variations in sampling in different jurisdictions could render data dissemination at smaller geography levels impossible. The result would be the provision of data at higher levels of geography to maintain statistically accurate analysis, rendering NHS model data's use for local place-based planning difficult or impossible.

Summary

The federal government has recently decided to drop the mandatory census long form from the 2011 census and replace it with a new voluntary National Household Survey. This move will impact the 35 years of reliable data that the long form has produced and that the City of Greater Sudbury relies upon for numerous projections and reports.



July 14, 2010

The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Industry
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

Dear Minister Clement:

I am writing to you in response to the recent Government of Canada announcement that the Census long form questionnaire will be discontinued as of the upcoming 2011 Census, and that the source of this information will be replaced with the voluntary National Household Survey (NHS). This decision raises serious concerns and consequences that must be reviewed and reconsidered.

The mandatory Census long form questionnaire has long provided local decision-makers with detailed, rigorous demographic profiles of Canadians at national, provincial, regional, community and neighbourhood levels. This information has been fundamental to informing policy and program planning for key social issues related to employment and income, education, immigration and ethnicity. The same high quality data cannot be expected from the proposed NHS that would likely result in far fewer responses (by the very fact that it is voluntary) and skewed data that under reports vulnerable groups (i.e.: recent immigrants and those in lower socio-economic groups would be unlikely to complete the voluntary survey, the very groups that rely most on local-level programs and services).

Without the Census long form data, it will be difficult for our local government to monitor the changing needs of our population making it even more difficult to make sound decisions and identify priority needs. The decision to discontinue the Census long form will severely limit our ability to plan programs and services, meet growth management targets, appropriately address legislative requirements and responsibly account for local, provincial and federal funding received to meet the needs of our citizens. This is a serious matter that puts citizens, programs, services and the credibility of our work at risk.

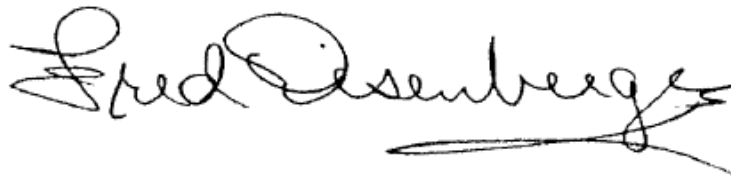
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Hamilton City Centre
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T: 905.546.4200 • F: 905.546.2340 • E: mayorfred@hamilton.ca • www.mayorfred.ca

On behalf of the City of Hamilton, I urge the Government of Canada to reinstate the Census long form questionnaire for the 2011 Census and subsequent censuses to ensure that a solid foundation of reliable, consistent information is available for evidenced-based public policy and program planning that contributes to the health and well-being of our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fred Eisenberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

Copies:

David Sweet, MP Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Westdale
Dean Allison, MP Niagara West-Glanbrook
David Christopherson, MP Hamilton Centre
Chris Charlton, MP Hamilton Mountain
Wayne Marston, MP Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
Carl Zehr, Mayor of Kitchener, ON, Chair Big City Mayors' Caucus, Federation of
Canadian Municipalities
Joe-Anne Priel, General Manager, Community Services – City of Hamilton



Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario

Direct all correspondence to the office of the Chair

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July 9, 2010

The Honourable Tony Clement, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Industry
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

Re: Discontinuation of the Long Form Census Questionnaire

The Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario (RPCO) are gravely concerned about the decision to discontinue the long form Census questionnaire (2b) and replace it with the **voluntary** National Household Survey (NHS). The long form Census questionnaire is a trusted and reliable source of socio-economic, labour force and education data essential to the planning process.

The Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario (RPCO) is a group of senior land use planning officials from upper- and single tier municipal governments across Ontario. The majority of Ontario's population live, work and play in the cities, counties and regions that are represented by the RPCO. These municipalities are economic engines and cultural centres whose continued health is vital to the long term prosperity of Ontario and the over 12 million residents who call this province home. Planners require the high quality data provided by the **mandatory** long form Census questionnaire to develop and monitor effective policies, to ensure these municipalities remain sustainable.

*Chatham-Kent
Durham
Guelph
Haldimand
Halton
Hamilton
Kingston*

*Ralph Pugliese
Alex Georgieff
James Riddell
Craig Manley
Ron Glenn
Tim McCabe
Cynthia Beach*

*London
Muskoka
Niagara
Ottawa
Peel
Simcoe County
Sudbury*

*Rob Panzer
Margaret French
Patrick Robson
John Moser
Nick Tunnachiffe
Bryan MacKell
Bill Lautenbach*

*Thunder Bay
Toronto
Waterloo
Windsor
York*

*Mark Smith
Gary Wright
Rob Horne
Thom Hunt
Bryan Tuckey*

The integrity of many planning programs is affected by this decision. Municipal planners analyse the census data in a disaggregated manner, allowing them to understand demographic trends down to the neighbourhood level. The absence of accurate data at a fine geographic level will hinder a planner's ability to:

- understand the impact the recession has had on employment,
- monitor how people get to and from work,
- identify the language spoken in specific neighbourhoods to provide same language services,
- examine the availability and affordability of housing,
- defend planning policy at Ontario Municipal Board hearings,
- model housing, transportation and employment demand,
- determine appropriate development charges to recover the cost of new infrastructure, and
- monitor conformity with the Ontario Places to Grow Act.

Each of these activities directly impacts the effective expenditure of taxpayer dollars on municipal infrastructure and programs.

The replacement of the long form Census questionnaire with the voluntary NHS would introduce bias into the data, as some groups would be more likely to respond than others, skewing the results. Additionally, the voluntary nature of this survey will also create gaps from one jurisdiction to another. Variations in sampling in different jurisdictions might render data dissemination at smaller geography levels impossible. The inevitable outcome will be to report at the least common geographic denominator: the larger level of geography. Hence, data at lower levels of geography (e.g. wards and neighbourhoods) will likely be lost.

The Census of Canada has evolved and expanded over many decades, offering Canadians important insights into long-term social and economic trends. The standardization and continuity of survey methods is critical to identifying and monitoring such trends. An entirely new survey will break the link with past data, making historical comparisons difficult and unreliable.

RPCO, through the Regional Information Systems Working Group, has worked closely with Statistics Canada during the 2011 Census Consultation process to enhance the 2011 Census data collection and dissemination. The NHS was not mentioned during this process and RPCO is greatly troubled by the lack of consultation.

It is for these reasons that we request you to reinstate the mandatory census long form.

Sincerely,



A. L. Georgieff, MCIP, RPP, Chair
Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario

ALG:db

- c. Munir A. Sheikh, Chief Statistician, Statistics Canada
Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Transportation - Ontario
Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure - Ontario
Honourable James Bradley, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing – Ontario

Request for Decision

Options for Homes Greater Sudbury - Deferral of Development Charges and Other Fees

Presented To:	Policy Committee
Presented:	Wednesday, Aug 11, 2010
Report Date	Wednesday, Aug 04, 2010
Type:	Managers' Reports

Recommendation

That Council direct staff to dedicate the necessary resources to complete the required analysis in considering assistance to Options for Homes development projects through the deferral of development charges and other fees.

Background

In May of 2007, the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation organized a meeting with various local developers in an effort to address the shortage of housing in Greater Sudbury. It was hoped that developers would address market demand by building multi-unit housing options such as apartments or condominiums.

As a result of the issues raised at this meeting, the GSDC continued its efforts to research different models for multi-residential and achievable housing. The Options for Homes concept was discovered and further investigation revealed that this model could be an ideal type of housing for Greater Sudbury. Options for Homes is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing quality housing at the lowest possible price. Their goal is to bring home ownership within the reach of families with gross annual incomes as low as \$35,000.

An information session about the Options model was organized by GSDC staff in November, 2007, and was attended by various community stakeholders including real estate professionals, developers, builders, not-for-profit agencies, politicians, etc. In order for the Options model to be successful according to Michel Labbé, President of Options for Homes, a socially-minded individual with experience in building projects is needed to champion the project and manage its development.

With the support of the Mayor Rodriguez, Councillor Janet Gasparini and GSCD Board member Michael Penwarden, a series of meetings was organized to try and recruit someone to champion the project. In April 2008, Tom Corbett, a local entrepreneur, agreed to become the 'Development Consultant' and sign an agreement with Options for Homes to work within that concept.

Signed By

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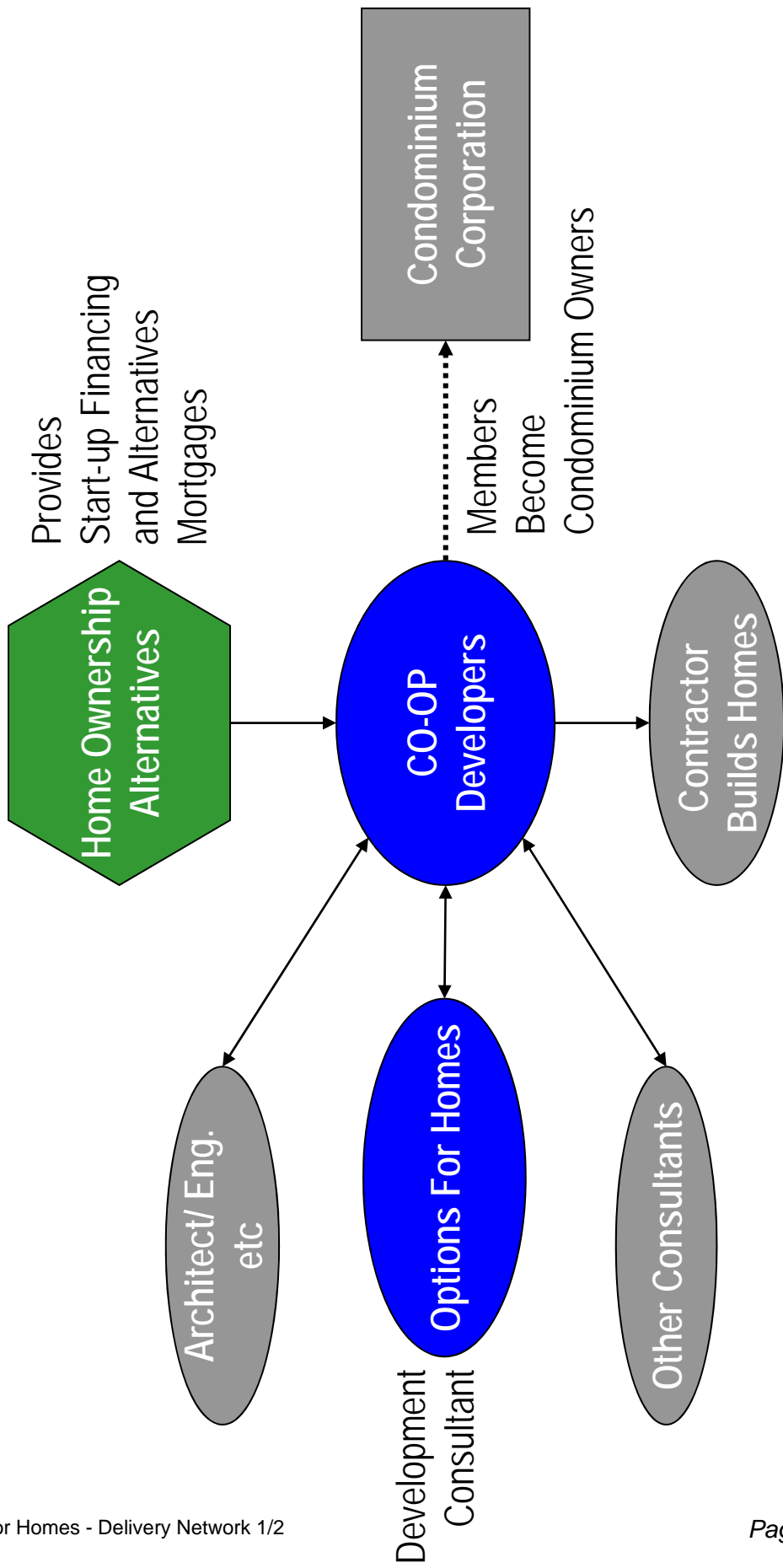
Since that time, Mr. Corbett identified a site near the downtown core and had begun pre-selling a number of units (over 30) as part of an approximately 100-unit, 8-storey, condominium building. It is important to note that the Options for Homes model relies on very modest marketing initiatives in order to keep costs down, including the good-news stories generally reported in the media about this type of achievable home-ownership. As a result of the modest marketing budget, the economic downturn and some inaccurate negative connotations in the news about the development, one of which that the project will resemble subsidized rental accommodations, sales virtually stopped in the spring of 2009.

Mr. Corbett is committed to seeing the Options for Homes model be successful in our community and would like to re-initiate marketing efforts. Since being involved with Options for Homes, a province-wide organization has been formed by Options' affiliates in other jurisdictions in Ontario. Mr. Corbett is a founding member of that organization and is also the Treasurer. While the Options concept is well-established in the City of Toronto, the organization's goal is to standardize the Options model and process in smaller communities outside the metropolitan area of Toronto where it is less understood. The City of Toronto, for example, will defer the development charges for a period of time which in turn further defrays the initial costs of home ownership. Home Ownership Alternatives (HOA), Options' sister organization that provides start-up financing and the 'Alternative' mortgages, will guarantee the financial agreement should a homeowner default on paying the applicable development charge within the time limit. Other communities with well-defined affordable housing strategies offer similar assistance.

The general process for a municipality to offer assistance through the deferral of development charges and other fees is by issuing a loan equal to the amount of the fees to be repaid within a defined period of time, 10 years for example, or when the initial purchaser sells their unit. Under the various acts governing municipalities in Ontario, the development charges and building permit fees must be paid before a building permit can be issued. Thus, the municipality pays for the charges and fees and issues a loan to HOA in an amount equal to that total. Since the total is based on the number of units for which homeowners took advantage of the assistance, the loan is repaid when those initial purchasers sell their units or are required to because the time period has lapsed. The value of the development charge and other fees is registered on title and, as previously mentioned, HOA guarantees the full amount.

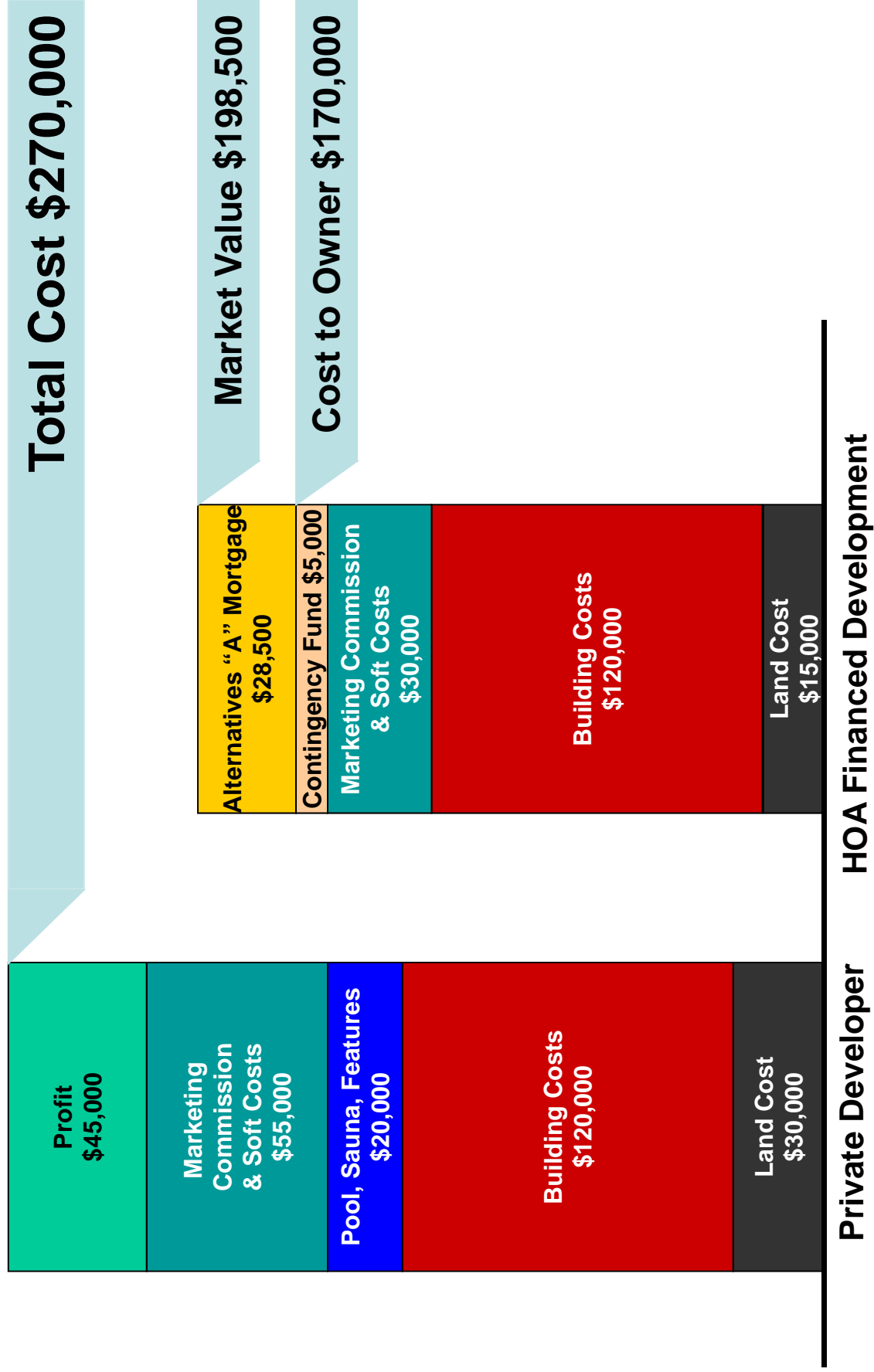
Mr. Corbett has requested similar assistance be offered to kick-start Sudbury's first Options development. An initial analysis by Mr. Corbett reveals that the value of the development charges, building permit and tipping fees for the proposed development is nearly \$1 million. It is important to note that up to 30% of the Options purchasers do not rely on the HOA second mortgage and other assistance programs such as development charge deferrals.

A Non-Profit Delivery Network



...builds successful communities

Private Developer vs Options Model



Options For Homes – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Options For Homes Affordable Home Ownership Model?

Options For Homes (Options) is a private, not for profit, corporation dedicated to providing affordable home ownership for low- to middle-income households. This is made possible because initial purchasers form a co-operative housing corporation retaining Options as a development consultant to build townhouse and apartment condominiums for them to own. The not for profit model eliminates most developer costs including marketing that can go as high as \$20,000 per unit. In addition, projects are designed simply, without frills like pools normally associated with multi-unit condominiums, meaning that they cost at least \$40,000 below similar sized suites in commercial developments. The Options ownership model also means that owners have opportunities at monthly meetings to get to know each other during the building period, which results in stronger communities.

How does the Options Alternative (Second) Mortgage Work?

The value-added Alternative Mortgage is provided by Home Ownership Alternatives Non-Profit Corporation (HOA) and allows purchasers to pay 15% less than the market value of the building or development. These mortgages represent the difference between the market value of the suite and the cost to create the suite. Purchasers make absolutely no payments on this mortgage while they both own and live in their suite. That's because it is designed to assist homeowners, not speculators. When owners sell, the mortgage is repaid in the original amount plus its equivalent percentage of any profit accrued through the increase in the price of the suite. In other words, if the suite has increased in value by 20% then the alternative mortgage has increased in value by the same percentage. That increased mortgage money is then used by Options for Homes to fund new projects. Since this mortgage has no debt service costs, it can be considered as equity and the CMHC counts it as a contribution towards the owner's down payment for the purpose of avoiding mortgage insurance premiums.

For whom can Options provide homes?

Options enable individuals or households with limited resources to own homes by increasing the amount of their Alternatives Mortgage, thereby adding to a purchaser's down payment. With loans from government and other sources, Options now hopes to offer 15% of the homes to households with moderate incomes and 10% to households with low-incomes. In addition, the Options model allows such households, many for the first time, to turn their monthly payments for housing into real equity.

Is Options willing to share its knowledge?

Options is not interested in becoming a national company with offices in each major urban area. Instead they prefer to train and monitor several non-profit organizations in the delivery of the Options concept in their respective regions. If the opportunities were sufficient in any given region, Options would train several organizations. To date, Options is working with organizations in Ottawa, the Kitchener-Waterloo area, Collingwood, Hamilton, Sudbury and Dorset areas of Ontario; the Vancouver area of British Columbia; and in the City of Montreal in Quebec.

What is HOA's relationship to Options For Homes?

Both Options For Homes and HOA were founded by Options' president Michel Labbé but are two distinct corporate entities. Options is a development consultant that advises co-operatives helping them to obtain access to residential land and pre-sell ownership homes to low- and moderate-income households. These co-operatives apply to HOA for pre-construction financing.

How do we make it work?

Simple put:

- 1) Buy land
- 2) Find a community-minded contractor to set a firm price
- 3) Establish a non-profit delivery agency

Where possible, defer municipal costs and use federal and provincial programs to support the initial capital investment further reducing the unit costs to the individual home purchaser.