

For Information Only

Poverty Reduction

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Nov 14, 2016

Report Date Wednesday, Oct 19, 2016

Type: Correspondence for Information Only

Resolution

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Finance Implications

There are no financial implications.

Health Impact Assessment

Poverty Reduction strategies have been developed nationally, provincially and locally to reduce poverty and improve the overall health and well-being of the community.

Background

PROVINCIAL/LOCAL

Local Poverty Reduction Fund

In 2015, the Government of Ontario initiated a \$50 million Local Poverty Reduction Fund to support innovative, community-driven projects that measurably improve the lives of those most affected by poverty. The City of Greater Sudbury Social Services Division was a recipient of \$72,000 of funding in 2015 for a pilot project to assist chronically homeless patrons at the Out of the Cold emergency shelter access necessary programs and services to move from street to home. This unique program was reaching the most chronically homeless and difficult to serve citizens in our community who are typically disconnected from existing homeless services. The project is currently being evaluated.

The provincial government announced a round of funding in 2016 and plans to do the same in spring 2017. The Leisure Services Division, in collaboration with the Social Services Division and the Rainbow District School Board, have submitted a grant proposal for a program that combines school and community sponsored activities to assist children achieve academic success. Decisions regarding funding from the

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Health Impact Review

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Division Review

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Province are expected soon. A total of \$10 million in Provincial funding will be targeted for projects related to homelessness over the 2016 and 2017 rounds of funding and a minimum of \$2 million will also be dedicated to support projects within Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led organizations both on and off-reserve.

Long-Term Goal to End Homelessness

In 2015, the Ontario government established an [Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness](#). The Panel was asked to provide advice on how to best approach the long-term goal of ending homelessness, beginning with how to define and measure homelessness. Based on the panel's recommendations in its final report, [A Place to Call Home](#), Ontario is taking a number of [immediate and long-term steps](#), including setting a target to end chronic homelessness in 10 years.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Ontario's 5-year Poverty Reduction Strategy (2014-2019) focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty for children and youth. The results-based strategy builds on the [first 5-year plan](#) (2009-2013), which focused on breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty by improving opportunities for children, particularly through the education system.

The current Poverty Reduction Strategy expands poverty reduction efforts to reach more vulnerable people and continues to reduce poverty in Ontario in the following ways:

- Child poverty - focus on children and youth to end intergenerational poverty through the [Ontario Child Benefit](#), [Student Nutrition Programs](#), [After School Programs](#) and [more programs and services for families](#).
- Financial security - working to establish employment and income security through [minimum wage increases](#), [jobs and employment](#), [social assistance](#), and [employment programs, training programs and income support services](#).
- Homelessness - commitment to a long-term goal of ending homelessness in Ontario through [affordable housing](#), [Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative](#), [Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy](#) and [more housing programs and services](#).

Locally, additional community led efforts such as community gardens, food security programs and initiatives to assist low income families in accessing recreation programs (Feel Free to Feel Fit, skate exchanges, Healthy Kids Community Challenge) have successfully aided in reducing poverty in the City of Greater Sudbury.

NATIONAL

Homelessness Strategy

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to communities across Canada, including Greater Sudbury. The Government of Canada announced nearly \$600 million over five years (2014-2019) starting in April 2014 to renew and refocus the HPS using a Housing First approach. Housing First involves moving individuals who are chronically or episodically homeless from the streets or homeless shelters directly into permanent housing.

<http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/communities/homelessness/understanding.shtml>

National Poverty Reduction Strategy

In September 2016, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, announced the *Tackling Poverty Together Project* which will inform the development of a new

Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy. This project will consist of conducting case studies in six communities to provide a regional perspective as well as a broader understanding of poverty in communities across the country. It will also allow the Government to hear directly from Canadians living in poverty and learn from organizations who deliver poverty reduction programs. The *Tackling Poverty Together Project* will start in Saint John, New Brunswick, in the coming months. Subsequent work will take place in Trois-Rivières, Toronto, Winnipeg, Yellowknife and Tisdale.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1119579>