

## **BACKGROUND**

The National Housing Strategy was released on November 22, 2017, Appendix A Canada's National Housing Strategy. The strategy is a 10 year, \$40 billion dollar plan that intends to strengthen the middle class, fuel the economy and give Canadians across the country a place to call home. Safe, affordable housing is a launch pad for better socio-economic outcomes for the citizens, a more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to be well and to succeed, a stronger economy, and a cleaner environment.

Over the next decade the National Housing Strategy plans to remove 530,000 families from housing need, cut chronic homelessness by 50%, and change the face of housing in Canada. The National Housing Strategy signals a meaningful re-engagement by the federal government in housing.

The principles of the National Housing Strategy are based on people, communities and partnerships.

The components of the National Housing Strategy are as follows:

1. **Canada Housing Benefit** – a new Canada Housing Benefit will be launched in 2020 to provide affordability and respond to local housing needs and priorities. This money will go directly to households to help offset rent costs for families who are paying more than 30% of their income towards rental charges. It is being compared to the Child Tax Benefit which is currently in place.
2. **Enhanced Federal-Provincial/Territorial Partnerships** – the federal government will invest \$20.5 billion to help the provinces and territories build more affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and create better outcomes for all Canadians.

This includes: \$8.4 billion delivered through existing federal-provincial/territorial agreements; \$4.4 billion in federal investments in provincial and territorial housing programs in 2016/2017, including new investments from budget 2016; \$4.3 billion for a new Canada Community Housing initiative to preserve and expand community housing (\$8.6 billion expected cost-matching); \$2 billion for a new Canada Housing Benefit (\$4 billion expected cost-matching); \$1.1 billion to help the provinces and territories meet local housing needs and priorities (\$2.2 billion expected cost-matching); and \$300 million to address the housing needs of families living in the North.

3. **Homeowners** – The National Housing Strategy will explore ways to make it easier for families to obtain an affordable mortgage which enables them to purchase a home that meets their needs. The strategy will look at ways to promote more balanced

housing markets in high priced areas. It will also introduce new tools to reduce mortgage fraud.

4. **Investments in Community Housing Resiliency** – Community housing has been the backbone of Canada’s response to the most urgent housing challenges for more than 60 years. Close to half a million Canadians currently live in some form of community housing. Many of the buildings are aging and in desperate need of repair. To help preserve and renew the social housing stock for future generations, the strategy will invest \$4.8 billion to create and maintain a resilient community housing sector.

This investment includes: \$4.3 billion for a new Canada Community Housing initiative (to be cost matched by the provinces/territories) to preserve the existing supply of community based housing, build a more modern and sustainable community housing system, and keep housing affordable for 330,000 low income households; \$500 million for a new federal community housing initiative to protect low income tenants as old operating agreements expire, and continue to offer homes and hope to vulnerable Canadians. In addition, a new community based tenant initiative will be created to provide funding to local grassroots organizations that assist people in need. These funds will make sure that people living in community housing will be better able to take part in the decisions that affect their lives, and have their voices heard.

5. **A Plan to Make Homelessness History** – the National Housing Strategy sets out a detailed plan to make homelessness history. The first step is an investment of \$2.2 billion in a renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy which will give communities the power to create local solutions to local housing needs. The aim of this plan is to cut chronic homelessness in Canada by 50% within the next 10 years. In addition, the strategy will work with partners to make sure all veterans have access to a safe and affordable place to call home. This includes an investment of \$4 million in a Veterans Emergency Fund, which will offer financial support and assistance to veterans in crisis.

The National Housing Strategy aligns with the City of Greater Sudbury’s Corporate Strategic Plan, Housing and Homelessness Plan, Population Health, as well as the Social Housing Revitalization Plan. Federal funding would assist in offsetting some of the costs associated with the work entailed in the aforementioned plans and therefore reduce the impact on the municipal tax levy.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Ensure that Council is aware of all federal funding opportunities that are included in the National Housing Strategy and are prepared to submit the necessary documentation in order to be considered for funding.

## **REFERENCES**

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, National Housing Strategy,  
[https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/hoficlincl/observer/observer\\_211.cfm?obssource=observer-en&obsmedium=link&obscampaign=obs-20171123-nhs](https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/hoficlincl/observer/observer_211.cfm?obssource=observer-en&obsmedium=link&obscampaign=obs-20171123-nhs)