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**Report To: CITY COUNCIL**

**Report Date: June 29, 2001**

**Meeting Date: July 10, 2001**

**Subject : Report on Homelessness in Sudbury**

**Department Review:**

Health and Social Services  
Mark Mieto  
General Manager

**Recommended for Agenda:**

J.L. (Jim) Rule  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Report Authored by:** Penny Earley, Coordinator of Social Initiatives

**Recommendation:**

**Be it resolved that the Canadian Red Cross Housing Registry and Rent Bank Emergency Assistance Program receive up to \$17,479 in additional funding for program enhancement from the new provincial program "Off the Street, Into Shelter Initiative."**



## Executive Summary

Sudbury has a homelessness problem and this report summarizes the activities that are occurring to address it.

1) A new provincial program is the "**Off the Street, Into Shelter Initiative.**" This fund began January 1, 2001 to help people get off the street and into shelter. The City of Greater Sudbury has been awarded \$17,479 at 100% funding for the 2001 calendar year. We propose to use this money to further assist the Canadian Red Cross to maintain the Housing Registry and Rent Bank Emergency Assistance Program. There has been a great demand for these services. The Housing Registry is an instrumental tool in finding affordable housing in the Greater City of Sudbury. Individuals faced with eviction or utilizing the emergency shelter system must find a solution to their housing needs quickly. The registry offers at a glance the available housing opportunities. In late 1999, the Red Cross introduced the Rent Bank - Emergency Assistance program to complement the Housing Registry. This enhanced their ability to assist clients to remain in their homes or to secure new accommodations. As a homelessness prevention program, they have been able to avert evictions or disconnections of vital services. Clients who benefit from this program have literally utilized all other resources and have accessed the Rent Bank - Emergency Assistance program as a last resort.

2) There is \$18,612 unexpended monies in the **Homeless Initiative Fund** budget from the year 2000. It is recommended that the following two items totalling \$13,000 be taken from this amount:

- a) \$8000 cost for the Homelessness Report January 2001 was originally budgeted for under the Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI). Unfortunately the contract with the federal government was not signed until mid



May and any costs incurred prior to May 28, 2001 could not be taken from this initiative;

b) The Sudbury Action Centre for Youth applied for \$5,000 enhancement for the year 2001. The budget was not changed to reflect this enhancement as there was some discussion around the most appropriate funding category.

3) **The Homelessness Study - Time 2** was undertaken in January 2001. The study was commissioned by the Health and Social Services Department and conducted by the Social Planning Council. Dr. Carol Kauppi and Dr. Jean-Marc Bélanger were the authors of the report. The study confirmed many of the same trends revealed in the first report which was based on the July 2000 data collection. Three hundred and forty-one (341) homeless individuals were identified during a one week period in January 2001, compared with 407 homeless individuals identified in July of 2000. The smaller size of the overall homeless population study may reflect:

- seasonal fluctuations in homelessness (summer to winter)
- a decline in the number of homeless people in Sudbury, or
- the difficulty of collecting data in the winter months

The Executive Summary for the Time 2 study is attached to this report. A full copy of the study is available in the Health and Social Services Department.

4) A summary of the projects which are being developed and funded under the federal government initiative **Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI)** to address the homelessness situation in Sudbury are described in the next section. The SCPI was approved by the former Regional Council on November 21 2000, resolution #2000-124.

## **Background:**

For many years the former Region of Sudbury under the Health and Social Services Department has funded emergency shelter (80/20 funding arrangement with Ministry of Community and Social Services) and other homelessness prevention initiatives like the one mentioned above (funded 100% by the province). Planning and coordination of services have been done in partnership with the Advisory Committee for Emergency Shelter, a group made up of service providers and other interested agencies.

The release of the first homelessness study in October 2000 coincided with an announcement of the federal Supporting Community Partnership Initiatives (SCPI) program by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). SCPI is a funding strategy aimed at building community capacity to prevent and end homelessness. Some \$700,000 will be made available to this community by March 31, 2003 from SCPI. This funding will leverage approximately \$1.1 Million dollars in provincial



funding under the 80/20 formula.

The SCPI funding will be allocated to the priority areas identified in the first homelessness study. Many of these priority areas are being addressed in the local plan. In addition, Councillor Kilgour is a member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' National Housing Policy Options Team (NHPOT) which is working with the federal government around homelessness prevention strategies.

The City of Greater Sudbury is the broker for the federal government dollars. In conjunction with the newly formed Task Force on Emergency Shelter and Homelessness, a community plan which outlines strategies to end homelessness has been developed. This plan sets out ways that homelessness will be addressed locally, based on the findings of the homelessness studies.

The legal agreement with HRDC has been signed by the City, and contracts are being negotiated with nine projects. For the first phase of SCPI funding the following projects totalling \$270,000 will be funded (includes \$19,000 administrative costs), with \$426,000 being allocated in phase 2. The 4 ongoing projects will have an option to renew their contract. In the Fall, a request for proposal process will be done in order to make the community aware of the availability of SCPI dollars for homelessness services for the balance of the phase 2 dollars.

### **Supporting Community Partnerships Initiatives Project Descriptions** (Funding for Homelessness)

#### **Four Ongoing Projects**

1. **Elizabeth Fry**

To provide 5 supportive transitional housing beds and 2 emergency shelter beds, the priority to be given to women in conflict with the law.

Phase 1: \$ 55,000

Phase 2: \$ 37,000

2. **Overcomers of Sudbury Support Group**

Partnering with John Howard Society to provide outreach services to ex-offenders and their families and families of offenders.

Phase 1: \$ 35,000

Phase 2: \$ 42,250

3. **Inner Sight Educational Homes**

To provide 14 transitional beds for males aged 16 - 19.

Phase 1: \$ 49,000

Phase 2: \$ 43,000

4. **Social Planning Council**

To conduct two Homelessness Studies, one in July 2001 and one in Jan 2002, and prepare a report.



Phase 1: \$ 27,000  
Phase 2: \$ 27,000

All ongoing projects will have the option to renew contract April 1, 2002 providing all program goals are met.

#### **Four Short Term Development Projects**

**1. Shkagamak-Kwe Health Centre**

Hire co-ordinator to develop proposal identifying emergency shelter and support services for aboriginal women and their children who are victims of domestic abuse.  
Project Value: \$8000

**2. Teen Moms Supportive Housing**

To hire a co-ordinator to explore building options, renovation costs, and funding strategies to provide supportive housing for teen parents and pregnant teens. The current proposal is to be updated and submissions for funding will be sent to the different foundations for sustainability.  
Project Value: \$9,000

**3. Canadian Mental Health Association**

To hire a coordinator to develop a proposal on how to address homelessness and the mentally ill, identifying the need for emergency housing, support services and prevention.  
Project Value: \$9,000

**4. Centre de Sante Communautaire**

To develop and enhance a primary health care services for homeless and hard to serve people in the City of Greater Sudbury by setting up a primary health care clinic. This clinic will primarily service the francophone and native population but will partner with community agencies to meet the needs of all cultural groups.  
Project Value: \$9,000

#### **One Time Project**

**Sudbury Food Bank**

One time funding towards renovations of the food warehouse.  
Project Value: \$50,000

Sudbury is taking a proactive approach to addressing homelessness in partnership with community agencies, the federal and provincial governments. There exists a strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, an evaluation component and a commitment from all the partners to work together. Together our community has strengthened its capacity to address this serious problem.



