

INFORMATION NOTE

Title:	End Homelessness St. John's formally becomes its own entity
Date Prepared:	March 27, 2020
Report To:	Regular Meeting of Council
Councillor and Role:	Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary, Housing
Ward:	N/A

Issue: End Homelessness St. John's formally becomes its own entity

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

St. John's is one of over 60 Designated Communities across Canada funded through Reaching Home. Each Designated Community has a Community Entity, which is the organization that is entrusted by the community to sign the funding agreement with the Government of Canada and to determine the local community homelessness plan and priorities.

From 2012- 2020, the Community Entity for St. John's was the City of St. John's, assuming the responsibility for contract and financial management through Reaching Home (formerly the Homelessness Partnering Strategy) and employing End Homelessness St. John's (EHSJ) staff. Over the past year, EHSJ has been undergoing a transition from being under the umbrella of the City of St. John's into a standalone nonprofit organization. Several key steps have taken place to enable this change:

- In 2019, EHSJ secured status as a registered corporation in Newfoundland and Labrador
- EHSJ (via the City of St. John's) engaged a new Executive Director position, hired in March 2019, to support the transition and lead the new nonprofit organization
- An independent board of directors was created for governance purposes (announced January 2019), and a new Community Advisory Board (CAB) formed of community members was appointed for advisory purposes (announced August 2019)
- While the City of St. John's will retain Community Entity status for 2019-2020, with the support of the community and the City of St. John's, EHSJ has applied for this status from 2020-2021 onward.
- Office space was secured, the City of St. John's will provide EHSJ in kind space at the St. John's Recreation Centre, 25 Buckmasters Circle.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the CSJ and EHSJ in January 2020 outlining financial matters until federal funds are expended.

Current status

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As of April 1st, 2020, the transition of EHSJ into a standalone nonprofit organization has formalized. The City of St. John's will maintain representation (ex-officio) on the EHSJ Board of Directors and on the EHSJ Community Advisory Board.

Implementation action 5.1 *Continue to support the Work of End Homelessness St. John's* is found under the strategic direction 'Cultivating Partnership' of the City's Affordable Housing Strategy 2019-2028. This confirms our continued commitment to collaborate with EHSJ on issues across the housing continuum moving forward.

The City of St. John's has enjoyed a very positive working relationship with EHSJ and we look forward to continued partnership to ensure that housing opportunities are produced, protected and promoted for all residents in St. John's.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: EHSJ and the City of St. John's have signed an MOU outlining their financial relationships. In addition to administering funds committed by the federal government to EHSJ, the City committed \$100,000 in each of the second (2019) and third years (2020) of its budget cycle to EHSJ.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: The City's Affordable Housing Strategy was built upon public and strategic stakeholder engagement, and the implementation continues to be guided and shaped by multi-stakeholder partnerships and processes. The City of St. John's will continue to partner with EHSJ moving forward, in particular as it relates to objectives outlined under the City's Affordable Housing Strategy.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: The City of St. John's Affordable Housing Strategy, 2019-2028, outlines a commitment to continue to support the work of End Homelessness St. John's.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: As of April 1st, 2020, EHSJ exists separately from the City of St. John's as a standalone nonprofit organization.
5. Privacy Implications: None anticipated at this time.
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: The City's Communications and OPS departments are aware, involved and supportive of the work being completed under the Affordable Housing Strategy.
7. Human Resource Implications: As of April 1st, the staff of End Homelessness St. John's are no longer employed by the City of St. John's.
8. Procurement Implications: None anticipated at this time.

9. Information Technology Implications: None anticipated at this time.

10. Other Implications: None anticipated at this time.

Conclusion/Next Steps: As of April 1st, 2020, the transition of EHSJ into a standalone nonprofit organization has formally taken effect. Moving forward, the City's partnership with End Homelessness St. John's will be defined by the City's Affordable Housing Strategy.

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	End Homelessness St. John's formally becomes its own entity.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 30, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Judy Tobin - Mar 27, 2020 - 2:56 PM

Tanya Haywood - Mar 30, 2020 - 4:54 PM