

Appendix E Homelessness and Affordable Housing

In 2018, a governance review process took place for End Homelessness St. John's (EHSJ). It identified that to coordinate funding, maximize impact and champion an end to homelessness, a new infrastructure was needed. As a result, over 2020 EHSJ underwent a transition from being under the umbrella of the City of St. John's into a standalone nonprofit organization. The Affordable Housing Strategy acknowledges this change and this appendix serves to outline the relationship of EHSJ from 2020 forward.

Background

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 the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (now Reaching Home) and employing EHSJ staff. The City provided EHSJ with annual cash contributions of over \$300,000 for the 2014-2019 St. John's Community Plan and considerable in-kind support, both administratively and operationally. This included in kind office space, human resources, legal services, purchasing and procurement, and financial/administrative support.

Current Context

End Homelessness St. John's exists to prevent and end homelessness in St. John's. Through the continuation of coordinated system-wide planning and EHSJ's leadership, St. John's strives to be the next community in Canada to end homelessness. The City's Affordable Housing Strategy commits to work collaboratively with EHSJ as they implement their Community Plan to realize this vision.

With the departure of EHSJ from the City, the Affordable Housing Strategy will seek to enhance the link between homelessness and affordable housing initiatives. The City will work with EHSJ to support their Community Plan and will formalize partnered objectives with this newly independent organization through MOUs in the future. Continued municipal funding of \$100,000 annually was confirmed for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and will be evaluated in the City's budget cycles for 2022 onward.

The City of St. John's enjoys a very positive working relationship with EHSJ and we look forward to enhancing that relationship with the organization's new independent structure.