

# INFORMATION NOTE

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**Title:** Opportunities for Collaboration with CHTC

**Date Prepared:** February 17, 2020

**Report To:** Affordable Housing Working Group

**Councillor and Role:** Deputy City Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary

**Ward:** N/A

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**Issue:** Community Housing Transformation Centre

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

The [Community Housing Transformation Centre](#) (CHTC) works with housing organizations across Canada to bring together expertise, resources and promising practices from across the sector in one place. Their goal is drive transformation, sustainability and growth in community housing. While Stephan Corriveau, Executive Director of CHTC was in St. John's in February we discussed two potential opportunities for collaboration that we would like to consider with the AHWG.

1. Potential partnership with our Housing Catalyst grants. We would be interested in partnering with CHTC on these grants to potentially offer more grants or grants at a higher value (attracting a wider range of projects). We would like to consider entering a Memorandum of Understanding, stating matched funding at a 1\$ for 1\$ ratio for every project that is selected, based on an agreed selection criteria and report process.

CHTC is unable to fund the City of St-John's so we would have to look at one of the following options:

- We both send our share of the grants directly to the recipients, and they answer back to both funders.
  - We send CHTC our money, and they send the total amount to the recipient, they report back to us. Reports would be shared, and no admin fees would be charged to the City
2. Potential partnership to create a community housing resource person  
It is well recognized in the community that National funding opportunities exist but locally we are facing difficulty accessing that funding due to:
    - Lack of knowledge about existing opportunities
    - Capacity to prepare applications

# ST. JOHN'S

- A lack of technical expertise
- Expertise to guide decisions of housing renewal and management

We would like to discuss with the AHWG how we could fill this gap for St. John's by creating a community position that could provide consulting, technical support, planning and funding guidance in support of strengthening the sustainability of the community housing sector.

**Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications: Funding is already allocated for 2020 Affordable Housing objectives.
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.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: The Affordable Housing Strategy aligns with the Strategic Plan's vision and directions. Affordable Housing implementations actions work in tandem with the Municipal Plan and Development Regulations.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: No legal implications.
5. Privacy Implications: None anticipated at this time.
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: The City's Communications and OPS departments are aware, involved and very supportive of the work being completed under the Affordable Housing Strategy.
7. Human Resource Implications: None anticipated at this time.
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:** We would like to discuss opportunities to collaborate with CHTC

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**Reviewed by/Date:** Judy Tobin, Manager, Non-Profit Housing

**Approved by/Date:** Judy Tobin, Manager, Non-Profit Housing