

INFORMATION NOTE

Title: Generators- Personal Care Homes

Date Prepared: Feb 21st, 2020

Report To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council

Councillor & Role: Councillor Deanne Stapleton

Ward: n/a

Issue: Generators-Personal Care Homes

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

The Committee reviewed the information note which outlined the Chief Municipal Planner's position with respect to this topic.

- The National Building Code of Canada for personal care homes generally does not require a generator, but they can be required in some circumstances.
- The requirement for a generator in a personal care home depends on the height and size of the building.
- High-rise buildings used as personal care homes do require a back-up generator.
- Some developers of personal care homes are installing generators for peace of mind (which can help with sales), even if one is not required by the Building Code.
- Generally, the City does not require the installation of a generator in an existing personal care home unless a specific issue arises.

Given the Committee's concern for the safety of the public, particularly seniors, it was agreed that representatives from the City's Planning & Regulatory Services Department, and Emergency Measures Department be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee on February 4, 2019. It was further agreed that Sharron Callahan and Neil Hamilton, prepare documentation for staff attending the meeting to substantiate the Committee's position that generators ought to be installed in buildings containing multiple units.

Following the November 5th- Sharron Callahan and Neil Hamilton have researched and brought forward the following information:

ST. JOHN'S

Information Note
Generators Personal Care Homes

Generators-Personal Care Homes (Sharron Callahan)

Following the last meeting of the SAC, Neil Hamilton and I obtained the listing of all the seniors' residential facilities for St. John's and Area. In total, there are 19 Personal Care Homes with a total bed capacity of 895 (1 home not advised), 8 Nursing (Long Term Care) with

bed capacity of 1135, 3 retirement living facilities (bed capacity not listed), with 1 additional retirement living facility to open soon (bed capacity to be 200).

Of these facilities and the number of residents, 895 of them would be Level I and II care and some Enhanced Care, including respite, while the long term care facilities would be Levels III and IV.

It was our intention to contact each of these homes to determine if they had an alternate source of heat and light in the event of a power outage; unfortunately due to reasons beyond our control we have not been able to start this piece of the research to advise how serious the impact of a power outage could be on seniors in residential care.

On January 28, through the work of the Seniors' Coalition which I Chair, a meeting was held with Dr. John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services, who has responsibility for these facilities. Also present was Dr. Haggie's Assistant Deputy Minister and the Manager of Community Health Planning who is the Lead on the implementation of the recommendations of the Deloitte Report (2016) on Personal Care Home Services. The issue of "alternate heat and sustained light" was raised. Below is a quote from the Minutes of that meeting.

- We ask that you undertake a conversation with the appropriate Minister (Minister of Government Services) to consider amendments to the Building Code that would require residential homes that provide service to seniors and other vulnerable persons to provide alternate sources of heat during power disruptions, i.e. generator.

Dr. Haggie will bring the matter forward to Service NL that has responsibility for the Building Code and Health. The Coalition will write a letter to both Ministers.

This request has apparently generated discussions behind the scene within Government, as another meeting to which I was invited but could not attend (4 seniors groups that are consulted by Government: Coalition, SeniorsNL, 50+, and PACSA) also spoke to it. The Coalition has yet to put its letter on record to Ministers Haggie and Gambin-Walsh.

Currently the Provincial Government's Standards for Care in Personal Care Homes are being re-written and are expected to be released during 2020. The Coalition asked to review these redrafted Standards and provide feedback. That is currently a work in progress and there will be a strong recommendation going forward that all seniors' care facilities MUST have an alternate heat and light source in the event of a power outage. Deadline to submit feedback is March 2, 2020 and a team of reviewers is currently combing through this 344 page Manual.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications
 - n/a
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders
 - n/a
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans
 - A sustainable City- A City that is sustainable today and for future generations; economically, environmentally and financially
 - An Effective City- A City that performs effectively and delivers results
4. Legal or Policy Implications
 - n/a
5. Privacy Implications
 - n/a
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations
 - n/a
7. Human Resource Implications
 - n/a
8. Procurement Implications
 - n/a
9. Information Technology Implications
 - n/a
10. Other Implications
 - n/a

Conclusion/Next Steps:

Next steps will be determined based on discussion with committee members.

Prepared by/Date:

Karen Sherriffs, Community Development Manager – Recreation Division, Department of Community Services. February 21, 2020

Reviewed by/Date:

Approved by/Date:

Attachments: