

8

NOMINATIONS FOR THE SOCIAL HOUSING SERVICES CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, March 7, 2007, from the Commissioner of Community Services, Housing and Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The proposed nominees for the upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC), Larry O'Connor (Councillor, Region of Durham) and Adelina Urbanski (Commissioner, Social and Community Services, Region of Halton) be endorsed.
2. That the SHSC, be asked to consider the appointment of Sylvia Patterson, Director, Housing Services, the Region of York to the Energy Committee of their Board.
3. This report be sent to the Board of Directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation for their consideration.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee and Council nominees for the upcoming vacancies of the Board of Directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation and to recommend participation in the Energy Committee of the Board.

3. BACKGROUND

The SHSC was created in January 2002 and officially began its mandate on May 1, 2002. SHSC is an independent organization and was created out of the *Social Housing Reform Act, 2000* (SHRA) to provide social housing-related services for municipal Service Managers and social housing providers across Ontario.

Under legislation, the Corporation has responsibility for four services:

1. Research and Best Practices (e.g. research related to best practices for management of assets, leadership related to OMBI benchmarking initiatives, etc.).
2. Bulk Purchasing (i.e. natural gas purchasing program for local housing corporations, energy conservation initiatives, etc.).
3. Investing Social Housing Providers' Pooled Capital Reserve Funds.

4. Group Insurance for Social Housing.

As of January 1, 2005, the Corporation became fully self-sufficient and self funding. The Board has adopted a Mission Statement that requires the Corporation to provide services based on a cost recovery basis in order to ensure that the Corporation does not become a financial burden for municipalities.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Current Board

SHSC is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors with eight Service Managers, five housing providers, and two provincial representatives (*see Attachment 1*). The founding board was appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in early 2002 and has been gradually replaced by nominations from the Service Manager and Housing Provider community. The Province continues to appoint two representatives. Currently, the municipal Service Manager representatives on the Board comprise a mix of elected officials and senior housing staff.

4.2 Board Requirements Under SHRA

In the case of York Region, the SHRA requires that the SHSC Board of Directors must include: one person selected by the Councils jointly of Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions; and one person selected by the Council of the City of Toronto; and one person selected jointly by the Council of the City of Toronto and the Councils of Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions.

4.3 SHSC Process for Filling Municipal Service Manager Board Vacancies

In January 2007, SHSC issued a Call for Nominations from municipal Service Managers to serve on the Board of Directors for a two-year term starting June 30, 2007 and ending December 31, 2009. The request sought nominations from both staff persons and elected officials to fill two upcoming vacancies.

This call was circulated and discussions among the Chief Administrative Officers of the City of Toronto and Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions resulted in the following names for consideration:

1. Larry O'Connor, Councillor, Region of Durham.
2. Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner, Social and Community Service, Region of Halton.

These nominees require Council support before they can be sent to SHSC for their review. Assuming Council endorsement, the SHSC Nominating Committee will examine each nominee against board composition criteria. These criteria ensure the municipal Service Manager board members are representative of: the various Regions in Ontario;

both Service Manager housing staff and elected officials; and a range of experience and skills (e.g., strong knowledge of the social housing system in Ontario).

4.4 Participation in SHSC Board Energy Committee

This report asks for support to increase York Region's participation in the management and governance of the SHSC Energy programs and initiatives by appointing a York Region representative to the Board Committee. York Region has played a key role in supporting and piloting policies and incentive initiatives with SHSC. Playing a more central role will allow York to bring the unique concerns and challenges of our Housing Providers to the fore and provide a venue to share the needs of Service Managers in structuring new programs with the SHSC Board.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Social Housing Services Corporation assists Service Managers by providing cost effective delivery of common services across the social housing portfolio, controlling costs and seeking opportunities to constrain costs and determine best practices in program management.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The opportunity to improve service and constrain costs in social housing program delivery benefits local municipalities through stronger management of a community based housing program.

7. CONCLUSION

The 2007 – 2009 Board of Directors will play a vital role in determining how SHSC supports municipal Service Managers, including York Region, and social housing providers. In support of this, it is recommended that Council endorse the nominees proposed in this report.

For more information on this report contact Sylvia Patterson, Director, Housing Services Branch in the Community Services and Housing Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the March 21, 2007 Committee meeting.)