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DR. ALBERT ROSE BURSARY PROGRAM ONTARIO HOUSING CORPORATION

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, September 23, 2003, from the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. A letter be sent to the Province advising that York Region's support is limited to 2003 in response to the 'double cohort' and continuing financial support to this program will not be forthcoming.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the successful delivery of the 2003 Dr. Albert Rose Bursary Program and the achievement of social housing residents in York Region.

3. BACKGROUND

The Dr. Albert Rose Bursary Program was established in 1984 by the Ontario Housing Corporation to assist public housing tenants to attend post-secondary school. In 2001, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) expanded the Bursary Program to include rent-geared-to-income households in all social housing including non-profit, co-operative, rural and native housing and rent supplement units.

The Bursary Program has enhanced the educational and employment opportunities for hundreds of rent-geared-to-income residents across the Province.

Conditional on available funding, the maximum award for full-time bursaries is \$3,000 and \$1,000 for part-time bursaries. York Region students have actively participated in the annual Bursary Program and benefited from the awards.

3.1 2003 Bursary Awards

For the 2003 Program the Ministry sought funding support from Service Managers. Funding provided by Service Managers would be matched by the Ministry and would be used as a "top-up" amount in the event the Ministry was unable to provide the maximum bursary for all eligible students due to increased demand during the double cohort year.

In June of 2003, Committee and Council agreed to contribute up to \$27,300 toward the Dr. Albert Rose Bursary Program, for 2003 only, to be matched by the Province, for the

education of students residing in York Region rent-geared-to-income assistance households.

At this point, it would be beneficial to write to the Province confirming that York Region's financial support is limited to the 'double cohort' year only and that as this is a Provincial program we anticipate that it will continue to be fully funded by the Province.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In 2003 the Community Services and Housing Department, in partnership with York Region housing providers, again distributed bursary information and application forms to rent-geared-to-income households within York Region.

Applications were submitted to MMAH for review and award.

4.1 Success of the Program

This very successful partnership has resulted in nineteen applicants being awarded a full-time bursary and three applicants being awarded a part-time bursary.

The Bursary Program distributes the program funds equally among participants. Due to the number of applicants in the double cohort year, this year's Provincial award is \$1,680 for a full-time bursary and \$800 for a part-time bursary. However, due to the Region's commitment to matching funds York Region applicants will receive the maximum bursaries of \$3,000 for full-time and \$1,000 for part-time.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Region contributed \$25,680 top-up money to the bursaries awarded by the Province. These funds can be accommodated through anticipated savings in the 2003 Social Housing Program Budget. The Province contributed \$34,320 to residents of York Region. The combined funds allowed all York Region recipients to receive the maximum bursaries under the Program.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There is no direct impact on local municipalities associated with this report. However, the Bursary Program supports low-income residents in pursuing opportunities for higher education and training, which will have an overall positive impact on the community.

7. CONCLUSION

The Bursary Program provides much needed support to young and mature people who reside in social housing to further their education. York Region housing providers have supported their residents through promotion of the program, ensuring that opportunities

are created for as many students as possible. The Region's funding contribution has enabled York Region applicants to receive the maximum bursary entitlement.

Congratulations to those students receiving a bursary award.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.