HS-CI-1



REPORT General Committee

DATE:

August 27, 2009

REPORT TITLE: NOMINATION FOR SOCIAL HOUSING SERVICES CORPORATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM:

Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner, Halton Social and Community Services, be endorsed to serve on the board of directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation, as set out in the report of the Commissioner of Human Services, dated August 27, 2009, titled "Nomination for Social Housing Services Corporation Board of Directors";

And further, that the subject report be forwarded to the board of directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation, for their consideration and the Councils of the Regional Municipalities of Durham, Halton, Peel and York.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) was the 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.
- Some aspects of SHSC's operating environment are set out in legislation, including the composition of the SHSC board of directors.
- SHSC is governed by a 15-member board. Legislation states the SHSC board of directors must include: one person selected by the Councils of the regional municipalities of Durham, Halton, Peel and York; and one person selected by the Council of the City of Toronto.
- In January 2007, SHSC issued a Call for Nominations from service managers' staff persons to serve on the SHSC board of directors for a two and a half-year term starting June 30, 2007 and ending December 31, 2009.
- Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Social Services in Halton, was endorsed by the Councils of Durham, Halton, Peel and York and her term is ending at the end of this year.
- Commissioner Urbanski has expressed a desire to continue on the board and the Commissioner's of the four municipalities support her continuation, as she has done an excellent job in representing the 905 GTA interests.

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DISCUSSION

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1. Overview of the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC)

The Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) was created in January 2002 and officially began its mandate on May 1, 2002. SHSC as an independent organization created out of the *Social Housing Reform Act*, 2000 (SHRA). The mandate is 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:

- i) Research and Best Practices (e.g., offers a registered consultants' directory of individuals and firms providing housing-related services for municipal service managers and social housing providers);
- ii) Bulk purchasing (e.g., natural gas);
- iii) Investing Social Housing Providers' Pooled Capital Reserve Funds; and
- iv) Group Insurance.

2. Composition of SHSC Board of Directors

SHSC is governed by a 15-member board with eight service managers, five housing providers, and two provincial representatives. Thirteen of the fifteen board members are chosen by their peers. Currently, the municipal service manager representatives on the board are made up of a mix of both elected officials and senior housing staff.

In the case of the Region of Peel, the SHRA states the SHSC board of directors must include: one person selected by the Councils of the regional municipalities of Durham, Halton, Peel and York; and one person selected by the Council of the City of Toronto.

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 and a half-year term, starting June 30, 2007 and ending December 31, 2009.

Legislation requires that the municipal service manager representatives on the board must be selected by the Councils of their respective municipality. Based on a recommendation by the SHSC board of directors that this process be managed through each municipality's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), this Call for Nominations was circulated and discussed among the CAOs of the City of Toronto, and Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions. This discussion resulted in Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner, Halton Social and Community Services being put forward and confirmed on the board.

As the board term is coming to an end in December 2009, Commissioner Urbanski has expressed her desire to continue on the board. The respective Regional Municipal CAO's have been polled and support her continued involvement. Companion reports to this report will be presented to each of those Councils for endorsement in time for reconstitution of the new board. in 2010.

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CONCLUSION

The SHSC board of directors plays an important role in determining how SHSC supports municipal service managers, including the Region of Peel, and social housing providers. Adelina Urbanski has extensive experience and knowledge in the area of social housing, has served the 905 GTA extremely well in this role and has the continued support of the CAOs of Durham, Halton, Peel and York. As such, Council is requested to endorse the nominee proposed in this report.

Janet Menard

Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:

D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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For further information regarding this report, please contact Janet Menard at extension 4939 or via email at janet/menard@peelregion.ca

c. Legislative Services