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DATE: February 11, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **APPROVAL TO GOVERN FUNDING UNDER THE FEDERAL HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY RENEWAL 2011-2014**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

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### RECOMMENDATION

**That the duly authorized signing officers of the Regional Corporation be authorized to execute an agreement and all other necessary documents required for the provision of the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Renewal 2011-2014, in the amount of \$2,811,030, in accordance with the HPS renewal program requirements;**

**And further, that based on the endorsement by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) that the Region of Peel continue as the Community Entity for the service delivery.**

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- On November 4, 2010, Service Canada announced that under this renewal of Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), Peel Region has been approved for \$2,811,030 in funding for the period of 2011-2014.
- As in the previous funding period, the Region of Peel has been approved by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to continue acting as the Community Entity for service delivery.
- An updated Community Plan is required for this HPS renewal.
- The Region of Peel will invite agencies to submit applications for funding through a proposal call.
- The Region of Peel is responsible for monitoring and distributing funding from Service Canada to approved agencies.
- The Region of Peel is not required to provide any matching funds.

### DISCUSSION

#### 1. Background

The intent of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is to create strategic partnerships and community based structures, including housing solutions and stable supports to assist homeless persons to move toward autonomy and self-sufficiency. The strategy recognizes housing stability as key and essential to other social determinants, such as health, parenting, education and employment.

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Historically, the Region of Peel has successfully implemented homelessness programs and initiatives under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiatives (SCPI) and HPS. Projects under these initiatives were aimed at increasing community capacity to support homelessness programs, enhance eviction prevention programs, create new transitional housing and to preserve and improve existing transitional and supportive housing stock. Since 2004, projects have included the development of transitional housing at Peel Youth Village, Angela's Place and Our Place Peel, the expansion of St. Leonard's House, a capital purchase for Supportive Housing in Peel and the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, the renovation of the Cawthra shelter for singles, the purchase of a hotel in Mississauga which was transformed into a family shelter and the approval of ten other community projects based on the priorities set out in previous program plans.

On November 4, 2010, Service Canada announced that under this renewal of HPS, Peel Region has been approved for \$2,811,030 in funding for the period of 2011-2014. The Region will receive \$937,010 per year, starting April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014.

Council is being requested to authorize the Commissioner of Human Services and the duly authorized signing officers to execute the new HPS Renewal Contribution Agreement to meet the April 1, 2011 program funding and renewal start date.

As in the previous funding period, the Region of Peel has been approved by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to continue acting as the Community Entity for service delivery. This means that all funding requests will be forwarded to the Region as the Community Entity. This carries the responsibility of project funding facilitation (in collaboration with the CAB), contribution agreement preparation and execution, program monitoring and results reporting of approved programs and initiatives.

**a) Region of Peel Updated Community Plan Process**

An updated Community Plan is required for this HPS renewal. On February 16, 2011, the Region of Peel hosted a staff and community partners engagement forum focused on the elimination of homelessness in Peel. Participants were asked to provide input regarding the most pressing issues and priorities for Peel surrounding homelessness for the development of the Community Plan.

**2. Program Requirements**

The HPS aims to prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada. It does so by developing partnerships that contribute to a sustainable and comprehensive continuum of supports to help those who are homeless and those who are at risk of homelessness move toward self-sufficiency.

**a) Role of Service Canada**

Service Canada will provide continued support, guidance and direction to the Region of Peel and CAB on HPS requirements, HPS Terms and Conditions and on addressing homelessness. They are required to maintain a constructive relationship with the Region of Peel as the Community Entity and will monitor and assess the Region's compliance with the terms of the contribution agreement. They will also be required to address any Community Entity non-compliance issues with its obligations and conflict resolution regarding CAB expectations.

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**b) Role of the Region of Peel**

The Region of Peel acting as the Community Entity will be responsible for:

- Supporting the CAB, coordination of community consultation, planning, assessment and monitoring requirements;
- Helping to establish the terms of reference for the project selection process (e.g. call for proposals);
- Soliciting applications for HPS funding through a proposal call;
- Approving project funding allocations based on the recommendations of the CAB;
- Preparing and executing funding agreements with service providers;
- Project monitoring to ensure compliance with the terms of the agreements as set out by Service Canada for all of the service providers;
- Administration of funding claims and payments for service providers and Service Canada;
- Partnership development;
- Facilitating service delivery and coordination; and
- Reporting on all project activities and progress against the Community Plan.

**a) Role of the Community Advisory Board (CAB)**

CAB members should be a motivated group of volunteers as diverse and representative as possible, who are willing to work together to prevent and reduce homelessness in their community. The CAB should be comprised of a representative range of partners including public, private, not-for-profit organizations and concerned community members. Aboriginal representation is also encouraged. Service Canada representatives will act in an advisory capacity to the CAB.

The CAB is responsible and accountable for:

- Recommending a Community Entity – our existing CAB has already approved the Region of Peel as the Community Entity for HPS renewal funding and delivery;
- Assessing homelessness issues and needs in the community;
- Recommending a Community Plan which identifies local needs and funding priorities for the HPS, and ensuring a coordinated response to homelessness; and
- Recommending project funding allocations to Regional Council.

**3. Next Steps**

Once Service Canada has approved Peel's application and Community Plan, the Region of Peel will sign the Contribution Agreement that is required to formalize participation in the HPS renewal. Community agencies who wish to apply for funding under the 2011-2014 HPS renewal will be encouraged through a proposal call to submit applications that demonstrate a commitment to contributing to a more sustainable and comprehensive continuum of supports to assist Peel's homeless population. Applicants will be required to submit applications that fit the context of at least one of the HPS priorities outlined in the Community Plan. Furthermore, proposals will be required to fill a gap and compliment existing programs and services. Funding for projects will be based on the recommendations of the CAB. Staff will return to Council with identified projects which have been recommended for funding.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications for the Region of Peel as all funding for projects, including associated administrative costs related to managing the program are provided by Service Canada. The Region of Peel is responsible for monitoring and distributing funding from Service Canada to approved agencies. HPS funding is being distributed to the Region from Service Canada, as per the Contribution Agreement, that will be signed for this HPS renewal. The Region of Peel is not required to provide any matching funds.

**CONCLUSION**

Peel Region has been approved to receive \$2,811,030 in federal funding under the renewal of HPS for 2011-2014. This funding will allow the Region and our community agency partners to continue the trend of successfully implementing and delivering new programs and projects to address the pressing needs of homeless and at-risk of homelessness populations in Peel.



Janet Menard  
Commissioner of Human Services

**Approved for Submission:**



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D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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c. Legislative Services