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Region of Peel
Working for you

REPORT
Meeting Date: July 7, 2011
Regional Council

DATE: May 5, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **PEEL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP ON OLDER ADULTS' HOUSING (PAWGOAH): UPDATE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FROM APRIL 2010 TO APRIL 2011**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the of the Commissioner of Human Services, dated May 5, 2011, entitled "Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults' Housing (PAWGOAH): Update Report of Activities from April 2010 to April 2011 be received;

And further, that the proposed new name of the working group "*Housing Options for Older Adults in Peel* (HOOAP)", as well as the new logo that is presented in the subject report be approved;

And further, that the updated HOOAP membership be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In the period from April 2010 to April 2011, the Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults Housing (PAWGOAH) delivered group presentations and distributed material at information fairs to more than 1,000 residents and more than 500 staff of agencies and organizations in Peel.
- PAWGOAH continues to work with the real estate sector and the Chair has facilitated training sessions for more than 100 real estate agents in Peel.
- PAWGOAH seeks the approval of ***Housing Options for Older Adults in Peel*** **(HOOAP)** as the new name for the working group.
- HOOAP seeks approval for a new membership which has resulted from three members who have stepped down, one member who was replaced by another individual from her department and the addition of seven new members.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

In 2001, the Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults' Housing (PAWGOAH) was established by Regional Council. It is a multi-stakeholder community-based committee mandated by Council to develop and promote ways of meeting the current and future need for appropriate and affordable rental and ownership housing for older adults in Peel Region.

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It reports to and seeks direction from Regional Council twice a year. The PAWGOAH advises Regional Council on the housing needs of Peel's rapidly growing 55-plus population, which is forecast to increase to 613,000 by 2041, nearly tripling the 2006 older adult population of 219, 000. See population data in Appendix I.

2. Membership

The PAWGOAH's 21 members include staff from the Region's Human Services, Health Services and Corporate Services, planners from each of the local area Planning Departments, provincial and federal government representatives, older adult residents, representatives from community agencies and Regional Councillors.

December 2010 marked the end of the third term of the working group. Six members stepped down including Councillors Gibson, Paterak, Mahoney, as well as Donna Martin (President of the Brampton Senior Citizens' Council), Michael LaPlante (Monarch Homes), and Lorne Coe (of the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat).

Newly appointed Councillor members following the fall 2010 election include Councillors Whitehead (returning), Foley, Hames, Carlson, Fonseca and Starr. Newly appointed community members include Naima Adan Ismael, Wellness and Recovery Coordinator, Nance Horwood Place; Supportive Housing in Peel; and Lillian Li, Settlement Counsellor and Project Facilitator, Newcomer Centre of Peel. These members were approved by PAWGOAH at the first meeting on April 12, 2011. The motion was made by and moved by P. Drake, and seconded by M.S. Mwarigha.

A full list of new members can be viewed in Appendix II.

3. Seniors Affordable Housing in Peel

While the mandate of PAWGOAH is to promote a diverse range of housing options to older adults, affordable housing is a key component as it offers quality, affordable housing.

Over the past five years, most of the social and supported housing units created in Peel Region have been designated for seniors. Currently there are 2,948 housing units and 34 seniors' social housing buildings within Peel designated for seniors aged 65 and over. The housing unit number reflects both market and Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) units. Wheelchair accessible and modified housing units are included in this statistic as well.

The current wait list for seniors' subsidized social housing can be three to seven years, this being dependent on where seniors chose to reside. As of December 31, 2010, there were 2,756 seniors on the Peel Access to Housing (PATH) Centralized Wait List (CWL) awaiting subsidized housing in Peel. Seniors make up 18 per cent of all applicants on the PATH CWL.

In 2010, PATH housed 264 new senior households in Peel from the CWL, an increase of 37 seniors housed in 2009. Of the 264 seniors housed in 2010:

- Two per cent were Victims of Family Violence (i.e. experienced elder abuse);
- Four per cent were due to Medical priority (i.e. less than two years life expectancy) and over housed (i.e. they were in a unit that was too large for the number of occupants in their household);
- One per cent required wheelchair accessible/modified units;
- Nine per cent of senior households were provided with subsidies via the Insitu priority (i.e. existing tenants who were switched from market rent to RGI due to financial issues such as a loss of spouse and/or income).
- The remaining seniors housed were chronological applicants.

The Region has done well to respond to the housing needs for seniors, as well as for victims of family violence, however, due to legislation and funding limitations from senior levels of government, the Region continues to face a serious lack of affordable housing for families.

4. Key Accomplishments of PAWGOAH

a) Education and Awareness for Older Adults

i) Proposed New Name and Logo

At the April 12, 2011 meeting, PAWGOAH members voted on a new name and logo for the working group. Members felt that the current name was very lengthy and difficult for residents to remember and search for on the internet. Members reviewed four new options and selected Housing Options for Older Adults in Peel. In addition, a tagline was suggested. It is "Promoting Aging in the *Right* Place." It was found that many seniors interpret "aging in place" to mean that they should stay in their houses despite the physical barriers and challenges they may face. The phrase "aging in the *right* place" conveys the wise step to find appropriate housing that will allow an individual to reside in their home for many years (see Appendix III for the proposed new name and logo).

ii) Presentations and Information Booths for Older Adults Groups

From April 2010 to April 2011, the PAWGOAH has delivered 11 presentations to Peel groups (over 300 people collectively). With the addition of display and information tables at information fairs and other events, information was shared with more than 1,000 residents and more than 500 staff of agencies and organizations. PAWGOAH's participation in community information fairs increased substantially, as did our outreach to agencies serving diverse cultures. Key messages included the encouragement of older adults and their adult children to explore many housing options in preparation for future changes in housing needs. PAWGOAH also shared information on new housing options in Peel such as the Caledon Abbeyfield house, Chapelview affordable housing building and Nance Horwood Place supportive housing for older adults with mental health issues. A full list of presentations, information fairs and other events are outlined in Appendix IV.

iii) Guide to Housing Options for the 55 Plus Group

The Guide to Housing Options for the 55 Plus Group Booklet is updated regularly. Examples of recent enhancements include the following new articles and community resources:

- Secondary Suites
- Nance Horwood Place Supportive Housing for Older Adults with Mental Health Issues
- Hospices in Peel
- Adult Day Programs
- Project Lifesaver Peel program
- Transhelp
- Immigrationpeel web portal
- Language Services in Peel Community Agencies.

iv) The Care Guide

The Care Guide magazine is Canada's most comprehensive guide to seniors housing and care services. With its award winning website "TheCareGuide.com", the Care Guide has been helping Canadian seniors make informed decisions about their housing and care service options since 1996. In the Greater Toronto Area, 110,000 copies of the Care Guide are distributed annually. In 2008, PAWGOAH partnered with the Care Guide to produce a series of articles relating to older adults and their families in Peel. In July 2010, the third edition of Peel articles was released which focused on the following topics:

- How faith groups and community organizations can support housing
- Stories from newcomers about their experiences in Peel (including very positive experiences as well as elder abuse situations)
- Elder abuse
- Some key resources in Peel Region

In the last year, more than 8,600 copies of booklets were distributed to Peel agencies and residents from the Care Guide distribution process. In addition, approximately 600 were handed out through PAWGOAH at various events.

v) Seniors Web Portal

At the staff level, a Regional staff member who is also a member of PAWGOAH is participating on the Regional Project Team that is working to establish a Peel seniors' web portal.

b) Advocacy and Partnerships

PAWGOAH has developed new and strengthened existing partnerships, while also advocating for a diverse supply of housing to meet the needs of older adults in Peel. Specifically, the Working Group undertook activities to positively influence the real estate sector, and to work closely with agencies addressing elder abuse, and the needs of newcomers and older adults with mental health issues. The following sections provide more detail:

i) Real Estate Sector

In 2008 and 2009, PAWGOAH Chair Michael Wright forged a new relationship with the Brampton Real Estate Board (BREB) and the Mississauga Real Estate Board (MREB). In the past year, Mr. Wright as PAWGOAH Chair and as a private

consultant dealing with housing issues, facilitated four training sessions with approximately 120 MREB and BREB real estate agents. The sessions focused on the housing needs of home buyers and sellers in the 55 plus group.

ii) Community Agencies and Networks

PAWGOAH continues to work closely with the following community agencies and networks:

The Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (PEAPN): Peel Region supports and participates in a wide range of collaborative activities including a close working relationship with the PEAPN. PEAPN includes 49 organizations in Peel, including representation from Peel Human Services, Peel Manor Long Term Care Centre and Peel Regional Police.

The Coalition of Agencies Servicing Immigrant Seniors (CASIS): The mission of CASIS is to be a collective voice engaging various stakeholders to enhance the quality of life for Immigrant Seniors in Peel. Key objectives include promoting and supporting the coordination of services for immigrant seniors.

Stakeholders Committee of Nance Horwood Supported Housing Apartments: The purpose of this committee is to enhance, promote and facilitate the health of older adults living with mental illness, addictions and/or concurrent disorders and who reside in the City of Brampton and receive service through the Nance Horwood Place Supported Housing Apartments project.

5. Proposed Direction

The Region currently has an internal working group that is assigned to develop a comprehensive long-term strategy for creative and affordable housing investment options and PAWGOAH's input will also be an important part of this process. This is consistent with PAWGOAH's past involvement with major initiatives including the working group's input to the Region of Peel's Housing Strategy, as well as to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's community consultation on the development of a provincial long-term affordable housing strategy in recent years.

Over the next year, Human Services has a number of exciting plans underway.

Human Services staff are involved with the creation of new seniors housing units, based on innovative partnerships with faith groups and community groups. For example, a new housing project being developed in partnership with the Coptic Church at Mayfield and Highway 10 in Brampton includes more than 90 units for seniors. In addition, there are two other projects underway in Brampton that will include approximately 140 seniors units in total, and one project in Mississauga which will include approximately 125 seniors units.

As well, staff are exploring the feasibility of conducting a study to update the data obtained in the 2003 *Views of Older Adults in Peel Region on Housing Needs and Options: Final Report*. The intention is to obtain current information, as well as to consider expanding the scope to include other needs such as health and support services.

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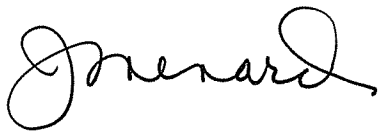
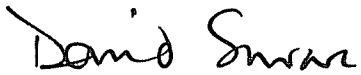
CONCLUSION

Overall, PAWGOAH is becoming widely recognized and has made significant strides in promoting the development of full range of housing types for older adults in Peel. The committee, operating under its new name (subject to Council approval), will continue to fulfill their mandate as established by Peel Regional Council.



Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

For further information regarding this report, please contact Pat Chrisjohn at extension 3561 or via email at pat.chrisjohn@peelregion.ca

c. Legislative Services

APPENDIX I

Population Data of the Peel Older Adult Population

Peel's senior population is increasing at a faster rate, the composition of this group is becoming more diverse, older adults are living under a tighter budget than population in other age groups and a growing number of them are living without the support of a family or a relative.

Population of 55+ and 65+ Age Groups In Peel					
	2006				2009
Age Group	**Caledon**	**Brampton**	**Mississauga**	**Peel**	**Peel**
55 & over	11,510	74,220	133,430	219,175	262,012*
65 & over	5,155	33,675	65,690	104,530	125,912*

* These are preliminary estimates by Statistics Canada and are revised on a regular basis.

- Older adults are the fastest growing age group in Peel. According to the 2006 Census, Peel's total population grew by 17.2 per cent from 2001. However, the population in two oldest age groups (45-64 years and 65+) grew by 27 per cent and 33 per cent respectively in five years (2001-2006).

- One fifth of (20 per cent) Peel's immigrants, who entered the Country between 2001 and 2005, were 45 years and older.

- Almost 15 per cent of Peel's seniors live alone. The number rises to 22 per cent for people aged 75 years and older.

- By 2031, it is estimated that one-fifth (20per cent) of Peel's population will be 65 years and older. Another forecast indicates that by 2024, the number of seniors aged 65 and older in Peel will exceed the number of children (0-14 years) for the first time. This trend is expected to continue beyond 2024.

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APPENDIX II

Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults' Housing

MEMBERSHIP as of April 2011

1. **Chair:** Michael Wright, A-Team Strategies Inc.
2. **Vice Chair:** Derek Mercey, The Care Guide

Regional Councillors:
3. Patti Foley, Caledon
4. Richard Whitehead, Caledon
5. Sandra Hames, Brampton
6. George Carlson, Mississauga
7. Chris Fonseca, Mississauga
8. Ron Starr, Mississauga

Provincial and Federal Governments:
9. Ian Russell, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
10. Brett Barnes, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp.

Municipal Planning Representation:
11. Emily Irvine, City of Mississauga
12. Marissa Williams, Town of Caledon
13. Karyn Poad, City of Brampton

Region of Peel Representatives:
14. Patricia Chrisjohn, Human Services Department
15. Inga Mazuryk, Long -Term Care Division, Health Services
16. Archana Vyas, Integrated Planning Division, Corporate Services
17. Mr. Mwarigha, Peel Living & Residential Property Management

Older Adult Members:
18. Peter Drake, Resident of Caledon
19. Bruce Hammond, Resident of Mississauga

Community Members:
20. Lillian Li, Newcomer Centre of Peel
21. Naima Adan Ismael, Nance Horwood Place

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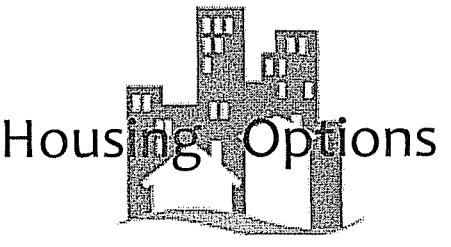
APPENDIX III

Proposed New Name and Logo of the Working Group
(as passed by motion at the April 12, 2011 meeting of the PAWGOAH)

Note that this is a draft design concept and that Communications staff will be requested to finalize this after approval has been received by Regional Council.



for Older Adults in Peel

HOOAP Working Group

Promoting Aging in the Right Place

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Attended by Representatives of the PAWGOAH From April 2010 to April 2011

- Bolton Probus Club Meeting.
  - Presentation.
  - Date: April 2010
  - Participants: 35

- Coalition of Agencies Serving Immigrant Seniors
  - Presentation
  - Date: April 2010
  - Participants: 20 representatives from various agencies.)

- 11th annual Community Resource Fair for Persons with Disabilities (sponsored by the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities in partnership with ErinoakKids.)
  - Information Table shared with ROP Accessibility Advisory Committee
  - Date: May 4, 2010
  - Participants: More than 100 people visited the table.
- Newcomer Centre of Peel in Mississauga
  - Presentation
  - Date: May 2010
  - Participants: Approximately 30 older adults from 6 different cultural groups.
- National Access Awareness Event in Mississauga
  - Information Table
  - Date: May 2010
  - Participants: More than 50 people visited the booth.

- Nance Horwood Place Stakeholders Meeting
  - Shared material at a meeting
  - Date: June 2010
  - Participants: 15 agency participants

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
  - Two presentations organized with Peel Elder Abuse Prevention
  - Network held at ROP headquarters.
  - Date: June 15, 2010
  - Participants: Approximately 45 people ROP and agency staff

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
  - Presentation to the ROP Accessibility Advisory Committee
  - Date: June 29, 2010
  - Participants: Approximately 10

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- Malton campus of Newcomer Centre
  - Presentation to a small group
  - Date: June 2010
  - Participants: 6 newcomer older adult residents

- Newcomer Resource Connections, Centre for Education & Training
  - A joint presentation with Halton's Elderly Services Advisory Committee
  - Dates: June 17 and August 19, 2010
  - Participants: Approximately 90 front line staff who work directly with newcomers to offer support, referrals and information.

- Nance Horwood Open House
  - Information Table
  - Date: June 25, 2010
  - Participants: More than 60 people attended the event.

- Newcomer Resource Connections, Centre for Education & Training
  - A small group presentation
  - Date: September, 2010
  - Participants: 9 newcomer older adults

- Human Services Showcase
  - Display and Information booth. The purpose of the Showcase is to share our knowledge of services with staff who support clients and the community.
  - Dates: October 4 and 5, 2010
  - Participants: More than 200 staff visited the booth

- Brampton Seniors Fair
  - Display and information table
  - Date: October 6, 2010
  - Participants: More than 150 people visited the booth

- Park Royal Seniors Fair at Sheridan Villa
  - Display and information table
  - Date: October 29, 2010
  - Participants: More than 70 people visited our booth

- Brampton Seniors' Citizen's Council
  - Presentation
  - Date: November 2, 2010
  - Participants: More than 50 members

- Seniors Fair in Clarkson
  - Display/information table
  - Date: November 9, 2010

- Punjabi Community Health Services and Human Endeavour sponsored 1st Annual Falls Prevention Conference in the South Asian Community

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- Information Table
- Date: January 14, 2011
- Participants: More than 180 people visited the booth

- Brampton Home Care Town Hall
  - Information table shared with Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network and other related agencies
  - Date: Feb 5, 2011
  - Participants: More than 80 people attended the forum

- Senior Condo Owners in Mississauga
  - Presentation
  - Date: February 8, 2011
  - Participants: 40

- Seniors Health Promotion and Active Living Fair at Square One
  - Display/Information table
  - Date: March 25, 2011
  - Participants: More than 60 people visited the booth

- 55+ Inspired Living Fair at the Mississauga Seniors' Centre
  - Display/information table
  - Date: April 2, 2011
  - Participants: Approximately 100 people visited the booth

- Coalition of Agencies Serving Immigrant Seniors
  - Shared material at a meeting
  - Date: April 13, 2011
  - Participants: 12 people from various agencies attended

- 12th Annual Community Resource Fair for Persons with Disabilities (sponsored by the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities in partnership with ErinoakKids)
  - Information Table
  - Date: April 19, 2011
  - Participants: 50 copies of various material items were provided

- Local Renovator
  - Shared material with a local renovator who was particularly interested in programs to help older adults with Alzheimer's
  - Date: April 27, 2010
  - Participants: More than 50 people visited the booth