

MA-DI-1

---

DATE: March 13, 2012

REPORT TITLE: **APPOINTMENT TO HOUSING SERVICES CORPORATION**

FROM: Emil Kolb, Regional Chair

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Region of Peel Chief Administrative Officer, David Szwarc, be selected in conjunction with his joint selection by the regional municipalities of Halton, Durham and York for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Housing Services Corporation (HSC) pursuant to section 128(2)3 of the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.**

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Housing Services Corporation (formally the Social Housing Services Corporation) is mandated by Section 121 of the *Housing Services Act* (2011) to provide housing related services for municipal service managers and social housing providers across Ontario
- Some aspects of the Corporation are set out in legislation including the composition of the HSC Board of Directors
- HSC is governed by a 15 member board that must include two directors appointed by the Minister, one director selected by the City of Toronto, one director selected jointly by the regional municipalities of Durham, Halton, Peel and York, one director selected jointly by the five GTA municipalities, one director selected by the District Social Services Administrative Board (DSSAB) service managers, four directors selected jointly by the service managers, and five directors selected by the housing providers.
- The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Regional Municipality of Peel, David Szwarc, has been selected by the regional municipalities of Halton, Durham and York in support of, and pending his selection by Peel, to result in a joint selection by the four regional municipalities. The appointment is for a four year term.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Background**

The Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) was created in January 2002 under the *Social Housing Reform Act*. Its name was changed to the Housing Services Corporation in the *Housing Services Act* (2011). Its function remained largely the same, namely to provide housing related services for municipal service managers and social housing providers across Ontario. The legislation prescribes the objectives of the Corporation which include improving the operation, efficiency, and long-term sustainability of moderate and low-income housing

March 13, 2012

**APPOINTMENT TO HOUSING SERVICES CORPORATION**

providers and improving the management of their physical assets. Specifically, the Corporation shall establish and manage for the housing providers:

- insurance programs,
- schemes to pool capital reserve funds, and
- joint purchase of natural gas

In addition, it is empowered to undertake research and provide advice to the Province, service managers and housing providers about performance measures and good practices to achieve the efficient and effective provision and long term sustainability and viability of housing for moderate and low-income households.

**2. Board Membership**

HSC is governed by a 15 member board that must include two directors appointed by the Minister, one director selected by the City of Toronto, one director selected jointly by the regional municipalities of Durham, Halton, Peel and York, one director selected jointly by the five GTA municipalities, one director selected by the DSSAB service managers, four directors selected jointly by the service managers, and five directors selected by housing providers.

David Szwarc will serve for a four year term starting April 1, 2012. Previous representatives on the Board from Peel have included Roger Maloney and Keith Ward. Adlena Urbanski, the Commissioner of Human Services for York Region was appointed to the Board in 2009 as the candidate selected by the four '905' Regional municipalities and the City of Toronto. While it is not required that the selected individual be a senior officer of the selecting regional municipality, David Szwarc's role as Peel's CAO represents an outstanding credential for the role of Housing Services Corporation Board member as well as a real benefit to Peel in the knowledge and experience he will bring to the Board.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications to the Region of Peel arising from this appointment. The Housing Services Corporation Board will cover any expenses related to service on the Board, and the legislation provides for remuneration of Board members.

**CONCLUSION**

The HSC Board of Directors plays an important role in determining how the HSC supports municipal service managers, including the Region of Peel, and social housing providers such as Peel Living. With David Szwarc's appointment there will be two municipal CAOs and a municipal Commissioner on the Board whose combined experience, along with the other Board members, will be an asset in supporting the Corporation in fulfilling its legislated mandate.



Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair