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Subject: Federal Homelessness Strategy

Greetings Mayor and Council-

This week the federal Government released new homelessness programs. Staff have summarized the program and our messages regarding the programs.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best

Sadhu

Quick facts about the changes to the federal funding for homelessness.

- Under new rules being unveiled on June 12, cities will be given leeway to spend money on local initiatives and experiments – so long as they can meet Ottawa’s goal of cutting in half the number of chronic homeless people in their midst.
- The 2017 federal budget doubled the amount of money the government plans to spend on the program, bringing total spending to \$2.1 billion over the next decade.
- The government says some of the new spending will target Indigenous Peoples – a group over-represented in shelters compared to their percentage of the general population – and communities in the territories.
- Through Reaching Home, the Government of Canada will reinforce its community-based approach, delivering funding directly to municipalities and local service providers.
- Communities participating in Reaching Home will work toward a 50% reduction in chronic homelessness over the next 10 years. Building on the successful adoption of Housing First as a best practice, the Government will work with communities to develop and deliver data-driven system plans with clear outcomes.
- Reaching Home funding will also provide communities with the tools they need to deliver systems plans, coordinated access to services, and better local data.
- Reaching Home is part of Canada's first-ever National Housing Strategy—a 10-year \$40-billion plan to lift hundreds and thousands of Canadians out of housing need, resulting in up to 100,000 new housing units and 300,000 repaired or renewed housing units.

Federal Government’s News Release, June 12, 2018:

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/reaching-home-canadas-homelessness-strategy---the-government-of-canada-announces-strategy-to-reduce-chronic-homelessness-by-50-over-the-next-ten-years-685144071.html>

Today, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, announced the Government of Canada will be making bold changes to the federal strategy to prevent and reduce homelessness. Reaching Home, the Government of Canada's redesigned homelessness strategy, will double support for communities to address the needs of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Through Reaching Home, the Government of Canada will reinforce its community-based approach, delivering funding directly to municipalities and local service providers. The strategy's reach will also expand to new communities. New communities will be added through an application process to be launched later this year. This expansion will not affect the funding received by the existing 61 Designated Communities.

Communities participating in Reaching Home will work toward a 50% reduction in chronic homelessness over the next 10 years. Building on the successful adoption of Housing First as a best practice, the Government will work with communities to develop and deliver data-driven system plans with clear outcomes. This new outcomes-based approach will give communities greater flexibility to identify, test, and apply innovative solutions and evidence-based practices that achieve results for vulnerable Canadians

Reaching Home funding will also provide communities with the tools they need to deliver systems plans, coordinated access to services, and better local data.

Reaching Home is part of Canada's first-ever National Housing Strategy—a 10-year \$40-billion plan to lift hundreds and thousands of Canadians out of housing need, resulting in up to 100,000 new housing units and 300,000 repaired or renewed housing units. This will create a new generation of housing in Canada. Our plan will promote diverse communities. It will build housing that is sustainable, accessible, mixed-income, and mixed-use. We will build housing that is fully integrated into the community—close to transit, close to work, and close to public services. The National Housing Strategy is part of the Government of Canada's plan to build a more equal Canada for all, including the most vulnerable—one where women and men are empowered to make positive changes that benefit their own lives, and our economy as a whole.

Quick Facts

- As part of the National Housing Strategy, the Government of Canada announced a total investment of \$2.2 billion for homelessness over 10 years, building on Budget 2016 funding of \$111.8 million over two years. By 2021–22, this will double annual investments compared to 2015–16.
- In 2016, investment in the Indigenous homelessness was doubled. Reaching Home will further increase funding to prevent and reduce Indigenous homelessness, and support the delivery of holistic and culturally-appropriate responses to the unique needs of indigenous peoples living in vulnerable conditions, including Indigenous women, youth and mothers with children.
- Over the past year, the Government of Canada consulted with municipalities, stakeholders, provinces, territories and Indigenous partners on how to improve the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) to better prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada. These consultations were guided by the work of an Advisory Committee of experts, stakeholders and those with lived experience of homelessness, chaired by Parliamentary Secretary (Housing and Urban Affairs) Adam Vaughan.
- Reaching Home will replace the existing Homelessness Partnering Strategy and will officially launch April 1, 2019.
- In Quebec, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy is delivered through a formal Canada-Quebec agreement that respects the jurisdiction and priorities of both governments in addressing homelessness. Since 2001, five agreements for joint implementation of federal homelessness programming have been concluded, including the current agreement for 2014–2019. In order to implement Reaching Home and allocate funds in Quebec beyond April 1, 2019, negotiations will be undertaken with the Quebec government with the objective of concluding a sixth Canada-Quebec agreement.

COV Responses - Key Messages

- Solving Vancouver's rising homelessness is a shared responsibility – we need meaningful long-term partnerships with the federal and provincial governments, to make sure people experiencing homelessness have access to housing. We are looking forward to learning more about the Federal government's new funding announcement to help address homelessness in Vancouver.
- Despite significant efforts by the City to address street homelessness, the number of homeless residents in our City is persistent and continues to rise.
- In our 2018 Homeless Count there was an increase of 2 per cent or 43 homeless residents in the City since the 2017 count

Supporting facts from 2018 Homeless Count (March 14, 2018)

- Homeless count was a total of 2,181 people.
- Just over **1,500 people were considered sheltered** through emergency shelters, safe houses, transition homes and detox centres, as well as people in hospitals and other institutions who had no fixed address.
- A total of **659 homeless residents were unsheltered**. Although higher than last year (122 more than in 2017), the number of unsheltered homeless individuals has remained relatively constant since 2014 (when it was 536)
- **People of Indigenous identity** continue to be vastly overrepresented, making up 40 per cent of Vancouver's homeless population in 2018, but only 2.2 per cent of Vancouver's overall population
- **25-54 year olds** continue to comprise the majority of the homeless population at 70 per cent
- In 2017 the **City's Homelessness Services Outreach Team** served approximately 4,000 residents of which 2,027 were new to the service.

- The Outreach Team also secured 850 housing units for residents that were homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

SRO City Actions

- The City has launched the Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Task Force to develop further actions to improve SRO condition, affordability and tenant supports:
- \$1.3 million in upgrade grants was approved for Non-Profit SRO operators.
- \$2 million approved to support the non-profits purchasing or leasing of private SRO buildings.

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