



MEMBER MOTION

Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

Meeting: Committee of the Whole Council

Meeting Date: November 25, 2013

Subject/Title: Development of a New Long-Term Federal Plan to Fix Canada's Housing Crunch

Submitted by: Regional and Local Councillor Hogg

Whereas a stable and secure housing system that creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens; and,

Whereas the high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over \$1.1 trillion; and,

Whereas housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians' personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk; and,

Whereas those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units, which is driving up rental costs and making it hard to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity; and,

Whereas an inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while \$1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire; and,

Whereas coordinated action is required to prevent housing issues from being offloaded onto local governments and align the steps local governments have already taken with regard to federal/provincial/territorial programs and policies; and,

(continued)

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Whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, “Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch,” calling on the federal government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada’s housing future; and,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council endorses the FCM housing campaign and urges the Minister of Employment and Social Development to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of \$1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Jason Kenney, Federal Minister of Employment and Social Development; Linda Jeffrey, Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Paul Calandra, Member of Parliament, Oak Ridges-Markham; Costas Menegakis, Member of Parliament, Richmond Hill; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Hogg
Seconded by: Councillor Chan