

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW LONG-TERM FEDERAL PLAN TO FIX
CANADA'S HOUSING CRUNCH**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council adopt the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Resolution for the Development of a New Long-Term Federal Plan to Fix Canada's Housing Crunch *attached* as Appendix 1 of this report.

REPORT

The Community Development Committee, during the New Business portion of the meeting held on 2014 January 28, received a copy of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) resolution calling on the federal government and all political parties to work with provincial, territorial and municipal leaders to develop a credible long-term housing plan.

The resolution reflects FCM research that demonstrates that one-third of Canadian families are struggling with the growing costs of housing. The federal government currently provides subsidies for 68,050 households in British Columbia worth \$170 million annually through federal social housing agreements. A significant number of these housing subsidies are due to expire in 2014, with no effective plan in place for their renewal.

In response to this important issues, the FCM has prepared a resolution titled: "Development of a Long-Term Federal Plan to Fix Canada's Housing Crunch" which is *attached* as Appendix 1 of this report and is requesting that local governments in Canada adopt this resolution and forward it to the federal government in support of the FCM's coordinated national campaign.

Copied to: City Manager Director Planning and Building

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: Community Development Committee
Re: FCM Resolution Development of a Long-Term
Federal Plan to Fix Canada's Housing Crunch
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Arising from discussion, the Committee recommended that Council adopt the FCM resolution calling for a national housing strategy. The goals of the FCM “Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch” campaign are consistent and align with the City of Burnaby’s adopted policies outlined in the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy - Strategic Priority 1 ‘Meeting Basic Needs’, and the actions in support of the provision of affordable and suitable housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Vice Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Member

RESOLUTION

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

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,

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,

WHEREAS FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a council resolution supporting the campaign;

AND WHEREAS, our community has continuing housing needs that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by federal leadership;

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 the Minister noted above, to the BC Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing, to Burnaby's Members of Parliament, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Union of BC Municipalities.