



Meeting Notes  
Ad-Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness  
May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
10:00 AM  
Council Chambers, Town Hall (Video Conferencing)  
105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior

**Present:**

Josie Scott, Chair  
Lyn Smith  
Karen Ann McKinna  
Amy Scholten  
Keri-Lyn Young  
Jade Nauman (11:22 AM)  
Liz McLaren  
Chris Toner

**Also Present:**

Oliver Jacob, Client Services Admin. Assist.

**Absent:**

Guy Lamarche, Vice Chair  
Lee Dyck (w/ regrets)  
Lynn Grinstead (w/ regrets)  
Tina Chevrier (w/ regrets)

In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) and on the recommendation of the Client Services Administrative Assistant, committee members agreed to adjourn the meeting in thirty (30) minute intervals while the committee waited for a quorum to be present in order to transact business.

Resolution No. ADHOC-011-20

Moved by: Josie Scott

Seconded by: Lyn Smith

**That** the meeting be adjourned for thirty (30) minutes (to 10:30 AM).

Resolution CARRIED

Resolution No. ADHOC-012-20

Moved by: Josie Scott

Seconded by: Chris Toner

**That** the meeting be adjourned for a further thirty (30) minutes (to 11:00 AM).

Resolution CARRIED

**1. Call to Order**

Josie Scott, Chair, called the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness Meeting to order at 11:04 AM and welcomed those present.

## Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness – May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Notes

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. ADHOC-013-20

Moved by: Amy Scholten

Seconded by: Lyn Smith

**Be It Resolved That** the Agenda for the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness Meeting dated Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be adopted.

Resolution CARRIED

### 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Notes

None

### 4. Matters Tabled/Deferred/Unfinished Business

None

### 5. Presentations/Delegations

None

### 6. New Business

#### a. Memo No. 2020-05-29-01 (Final Report – Draft)

Resolution No. ADHOC-014-20

Moved by: Lyn Smith

Seconded by: Chris Toner

**That** the Committee accept the Memo No. 2020-05-29-01 (Final Report – Draft) as information and that it be filed accordingly; and

**Further That** Committee Members provide feedback on the draft report as presented.

Resolution CARRIED

Committee members reviewed the Draft Report to Council page-by-page to identify questions and/or concerns. Discussion ensued with suggested amendments being made following the meeting by the Client Services Administrative Assistant. It was also agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee would review the Recommendations sections in advance of the next meeting and contribute via an online platform to be set up by the Client Services Administrative Assistant.

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness – May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Notes**

### **b. Round Table Discussion**

Jade Nauman shared that United Way East Ontario was in the process of hiring a Poverty Reduction Specialist to provide support to the rural and urban communities, including Renfrew County. This position would involve a loan from the federal government for a one (1) year period. Once finalized, more information will be shared with the Ad Hoc Committee and community stakeholders.

Lyn Smith shared that CPAN had launched a home gardening program for its clients that allow them to grow produce at home and aid with their food security needs. Additionally, she suggested that committee members consider advocating to the provincial government regarding the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) claw-back for recipients of social assistance and increases to Ontario Works / Ontario Disability Support Program rates to meet the levels of the CERB. Finally, she shared that the Renfrew County Legal Clinic had developed useful resources and tip sheets on accessing COVID-19 response funding for clients.

Karen Ann McKinna shared that the NeighbourLink Fountain has been developing plans for the future and that they are eager to re-open to continue to serve local residents in need.

Amu Scholten shared that there have been concerns raised locally and provincially regarding the newly adopted policies of the Landlord and Tenant Board. Emergency hearings have been called to entertain some eviction applications and these hearings are being held by telephone, even if the tenant does not have a telephone. It is possible that this style of hearings may continue post-COVID which would be present a connectivity barrier for the parties involved. She suggested that advocacy on his issue may be warranted.

Liz McLaren shared that the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has put together a single webpage for COVID-19 related information including case counts. Additionally, this site includes toolkits and information, including guidance for community gardens.

Keri-Lyn Young shared that it was excellent to hear updates from the organizations and wished everyone well as the pandemic continues to impact lives.

Chris Toner noted that Teachers Against Poverty (TAP) has been very active to bring food and other necessities to its clients, particularly as classes have moved online. Local businesses have been generous to donate dozens of eggs, milk and bread every few weeks. Additionally, he expressed his appreciation for the compassion and leadership of committee members as the committee comes closer to its completion.

## Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness – May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Notes

Oliver Jacob, Client Services Administrative Assistant, shared that the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, in coordination with RCDHU, the County of Renfrew and local hospitals, have launched the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RCVTAC) which provides COVID-19 testing referrals as well as primary medical care for those who do not have access to a primary care physician (family doctor) or cannot reach their existing physician. Additionally, mobile COVID-19 testing sites have been set up across the County on a weekly schedule. More information is available at <https://rcvtac.ca/>.

### 7. **Adjournment**

Resolution No. ADHOC-015-20

Moved by: Amy Scholten

Seconded by: Lyn Smith

**That** the Regular Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness be adjourned at 12:33 PM.

Resolution CARRIED