

**Municipality Of Chatham-Kent**  
**Community Human Services Department**  
**Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Shelley Wilkins  
Director, Housing Services  
**Date:** March 28, 2018  
**Subject:** Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada Learning Event

This report is for the information of Council.

**Background**

The social housing sector in Ontario is supported by two main sector organizations: one being the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) and the other being the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHFC). In Chatham-Kent there are both private non-profit housing provider groups and private non-profit co-operative housing provider groups. As the Service Manager, Chatham-Kent maintains an associate membership to both of these sector organizations, and has done so since 2001.

ONPHA holds its annual conference/general meeting (or AGM) in either Toronto, or in some years it has been held in Niagara Falls, Ontario. CHFC is a national organization, so it rotates where it convenes its annual conference/AGM around the Country. In 2018 the Conference is being convened in Victoria, British Columbia.

**Comments**

After the litigation that ensued because of Chatham-Kent's decision to appoint a temporary receiver for Labourview Co-operative – over a decade ago now – Chatham-Kent discontinued attending their conferences for several years. The leadership of CHFC – who were extensively involved in the court case – has now largely been turned over as a result of retirements.

The co-operatives in Chatham-Kent are being professionally managed now and are operating satisfactorily. It is time to re-engage with the benefits that CHFC has to offer its housing provider members and its associate Service Manager members. With the Provincial Government now focused on Modernization of Social Housing, it is important to rebuild the bridge with this sector support organization and work to ensure that together the co-operatives are supported to be viable and sustainable into the future, in the post-Housing Services Act world – whatever that may end up looking like.

There are a number of plenary sessions and workshops that look quite interesting and worthwhile to attend. Tours of local co-operatives that have taken an innovative approach to solving issues are also an option of interest. An opportunity to network with Ontario Service Manager colleagues is also offered at this conference.

In accordance with the corporate travel and business related expenses policy, Council is to “be informed of all travel out of province prior to departure, if acting on behalf of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent or being paid by the Municipality.” In support of CK Plan 2035 and Council’s support of developing skills and life-long learning, and its support of a Healthy and Safe Community, one staff member from the Community Human Services Department will be attending the event in Victoria.

An information report on the CHFC Conference will be filed with the General Manager, Community Human Services following the event.

### **Consultation**

There was no consultation required in producing this information report.

### **Financial Implications**

Conference Registration Fee	\$ 740
Hotel Accommodation – 4 nights	\$ 1,216
Discounted Flight – Air Canada	\$ 520
Meals (estimate for 12 meals)	\$ 420
Travel to/from Toronto Airport	\$ 230
Shuttle to/from Hotel	\$ 60
Total Cost Estimate	\$3,186

In 2018-19, Chatham-Kent is participating in the Social Infrastructure Fund – Investment in Affordable Housing (SIF-IAH) Year 3 Program. The Program Delivery Fiscal Plan (PDFP) submitted to the Ministry of Housing includes designating five percent of the notional allocation for administrative costs. The program will be administered by Housing Services, with the notional allocation program funding to be used for a new build. A portion of the administrative funding (\$577,500 @ 5% = \$28,875) can be used to offset the cost of attending this conference in 2018. No municipal dollars will be used to attend this conference.

Prepared by:

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Director  
Housing Services

Reviewed by:

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General Manager  
Community Human Services

Attachment: None

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