

# Strategy for Emergency Shelters and Homelessness Initiatives

Presentation to Priorities Committee

September 28, 2005

Community Development Department

# History

- Former Region and the City of Greater Sudbury have been provincial and national leaders in responding to homelessness
- Community planning began in 1993 with the formation of ACES – Advisory Committee on Emergency Shelters

# History (continued)

- Research began in 2000 with yearly updates until 2003
- Provincial and Federal governments have provided financial assistance for homelessness since 1999 and 2000

# History (continued)

- City of Greater Sudbury began administering Federal Government's National Homelessness Initiative – Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) funding to agencies and organizations
- Funding augmented by the City's Community Placement Target Fund (CPTF) Reserve

# Developments Over the Past Year

- Social Services – Specialized Caseloads for Homeless Women and Men
- Community Development and Social Policy Section – Strategic Plan and Community Development Related to Emergency Shelters and Homelessness Initiatives
- System Management Group

# Developments Over the Past Year

## (continued)

- Provincial Rent Bank and Emergency Energy Fund
- Funding of Elizabeth Fry Society to Deliver Emergency Shelter Services to Homeless Women and Families
- Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness Initiatives

# Developments Over the Past Year

## (continued)

- Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) Emergency Shelters Task Force
- OMBI – Ontario Municipal CAO's Benchmarking Initiative
- Extension of Funding to Emergency Shelter Providers
- Creating Community Solutions

# Developments Over the Past Year

(continued)

- Housing Background Study – City of Greater Sudbury Official Plan
- Evaluation of Homelessness Initiatives
- Opening of the Samaritan Centre
- Service Providers Funding / Advocacy Network
- City Council's Recognition of the Need to Develop a Comprehensive Affordable Housing Strategy



# OMSSA Emergency Shelters Task Force

- Provincial per diems of \$42.95 are inadequate
- Many municipalities supplementing with 100% municipal dollars
- More responsive service delivery and funding model is required
- Final report to be completed in October

# Supporting Communities Partnerships Initiative

- Greater Sudbury one of 61 communities across Canada
- Funding used for sheltering facilities, support facilities, support services, capacity building activities, public awareness
- Local projects will end December 31, 2005

# Programs and Services Affected

Four emergency shelters – \$560,998

- Inner Sight Educational Homes
- L'Association des jeunes de la rue
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Salvation Army

\$42.95 Provincial per diems topped up by SCPI and CPTF

Nine community agencies providing outreach and support services – \$529,754

# 2005

\$2,060,657 budget for homelessness initiatives

Combination of permanent and temporary funding sources.

# 2006

\$1,112,116 potentially available for emergency shelters and other homelessness initiatives

\$969,905 – \$775,924 from MCSS and \$193,981  
City contribution for emergency shelters

\$142,211 – \$107,237 from MCSS and \$34,974  
City contribution for outreach and support services

# Recommendations

- Request that the Federal government extend its commitment to funding of the National Homelessness Initiative;
- Request that the Provincial government increase per diems for emergency shelter beds;
- Request that the Provincial and Federal Governments develop a multi-sectoral strategy to prevent homelessness in conjunction with municipalities;

# Recommendations

(continued)

- Continue City support and encouragement of community partners in their efforts to attain sustainability for programs that serve the homeless;
- Establish a Community Solution Team to prioritize services and supports within existing funding and budgets.