



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	January 22, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Resolution from the City of Welland re: Development of Provincial Legislation for Private Supportive Living Accommodations (CES18006) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Greg Witt 905-546-2424 ext. 4818 Kirstin Maxwell 905-546-2424 ext. 3846
SUBMITTED BY:	Vicki Woodcox Acting Director, Housing Services Division Community & Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

On May 11, 2016, Council received the following correspondence:

5.4 Correspondence from Tara Stephens, Acting City Clerk, City of Welland, requesting support for the City of Welland's resolution respecting the development of Provincial Legislation requiring the registration, licensing and setting Provincial Standards for Private Supportive Living Accommodations and recommended the following:

Be referred to the Emergency and Community Services Committee for consideration.

On August 10, 2016, Emergency & Community Services Committee reviewed the correspondence received from the City of Welland and provided the following direction:

That staff be directed to report back at the next Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting respecting the development of Provincial Legislation requiring registration, licensing and setting Provincial Standards for Private Supportive Living Accommodations.

Information:

In August 2017, City staff consulted with planning staff at the City of Welland. Staff learned the motion in Welland was put forward in response to local residents concerns regarding a single rezoning application for a local Welland supportive living facility.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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Unlike the City of Hamilton which has a detailed by-law which licenses its Residential Care Facilities, the City of Welland does not and was seeking Provincial leadership to help craft a set of local regulations to better meet its needs.

In Hamilton, Schedule 20 of the Licensing By-Law requires Residential Care Facilities to meet certain standards of care. These standards help ensure an adequate quality of service is maintained for all residents. Municipal officers and Public Health staff are tasked with monitoring and enforcing these standards. Examples of provisions in the by-law include:

- Certification proving the facility complies with the *Ontario Electrical Safety Code*
- Certification proving the facility complies with the applicable health and safety standards
- Certification proving operators possess minimum education and professional qualifications. This includes standards for hiring employees who possess a minimum level of education, professional experience and communication skills
- Maintaining information and records related to the residents, facility and building operations (including employees/volunteers) in a defined and sharable format
- Outlining standards for personal spaces such as the size and structure of bedrooms, beds, closets, personal storage space, linens and specifications related to the water supply
- Outlining standards for maintaining access to and quality of common space areas and amenities such as dining rooms, bathrooms, toilets, bath tubs/showers, telephone etc.
- Maintaining service areas for food storage and preparation so they meet the requirements under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*
- Ensuring the facility meets all other requirements under the *Ontario Building Code* and *Fire Code*
- Participating in common processes for admission and discharge of residents including provisions respecting privacy when keeping of personal information
- Outlining standards for providing nutritional and medical care including prescription drugs
- Guidelines around processes and frequency for facility inspection and by-law enforcement

In March 2017, as part of its commitment through the update to the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) the Province released its Supportive Housing Policy Framework. The City of Welland is in the process of reviewing the Policy Framework and determining next steps.

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Overview of Provincial Legislation and Provincial Standards for Private Supportive Living Accommodations

In 2013, the Province launched the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). This ended the Provincial Domiciliary Hostel Program and consolidated its funding into one flexible envelope enabling municipalities to prioritize investments into their choice of homelessness interventions to address local need. Since 2013, as service manager, Hamilton has continued to prioritize the newly named Domiciliary Hostel Subsidy Program through the allocation of CHPI provincial funds; currently subsidizing the program at \$6.8M/year.

In 2015-16 the Province completed a program review of the CHPI and announced a renewal of the LTAHS.

In 2016, the Province released an update to the LTAHS which included a number of new policy initiatives. One new policy initiative was a commitment to develop a new supportive housing framework. The framework is meant to provide a common foundation to guide both provincial and local program improvements and support coordination across sectors to better meet people's needs who access various kinds of supportive housing (including Domiciliary Hostels).

In March 2017, the Province released its Supportive Housing Policy Framework. The updated strategy has both short-term and long-term reforms that can be summarized into 6 Priority Actions.

Supportive Housing Policy Framework – 6 Priority Actions

The framework outlined a vision, set of principles & desired outcomes for supportive housing in Ontario including 6 Priority Actions:

1. Increased Supportive Housing Investment - Bring total investment to \$200 million by 2019-20 (announced in LTAHS)
2. Improving access to supportive housing programs and increasing awareness of housing and homelessness programs and services
3. Developing a Best Practice Guide
4. Developing a plan to modernize the Homes for Special Care program
5. Developing common outcomes with focused performance measures to better understand the impact of supportive housing programs and to improve our ability to measure progress in meeting people's needs
6. Provincial direction promoting collaboration between Service Managers and LHINs to coordinate social and affordable housing and homelessness services with LHIN-funded services

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Since the Province has addressed the crux of the City of Welland's request through the release of the supportive housing policy framework, there is no longer a need for the City of Hamilton to provide active support to the City of Welland's call for Provincial leadership in this matter. This was confirmed in consultation with planning staff at the City of Welland.

Next steps

The City of Hamilton will be working closely with our community partners and stakeholders, including the Domiciliary Hostel Working Group, to update them on the Province's supportive housing policy changes.

In 2018, it is expected the Province will be releasing a best practice guide as well as common outcomes and performance measures which will inform changes to the Domiciliary Hostel System.

Using the Provincial framework as a guide, City staff will be conducting a review of the Domiciliary Hostel system in 2018.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None