

**CITY OF HAMILTON
NOTICE OF MOTION**

Committee Date: November 6, 2013

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ...S. DUVALL.....

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 the stakes are especially high for Ontario’s municipal governments as housing responsibilities have already been downloaded (unlike other provinces and territories) and this is not sustainable on the property tax base;

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, such as the current wait list for social housing of 5,709 households as of September 2013 and the associated costs, that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by federal leadership.

Therefore Be It Resolved:

- (a) That Council endorse the Federation of Municipalities' (FCM) housing campaign and urge 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;
- (b) That a copy of this resolution be sent to Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the local M.P.s and M.P.P.s.