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REPORT TITLE: **Contract Renewal for Human Services Emergency Response – Canadian Red Cross Society**

FROM: Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That the Commissioner of Human Services be authorized on behalf of the Region of Peel to enter into a 16 month agreement with the Canadian Red Cross Society for the term beginning August 22, 2023 in a legal form that is satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor, to provide Preparedness Services, Core Response Services, and Volunteer Management; and**
- 2. That the contract (Document 2023-334N) for the provision of Preparedness Services, Core Response Services, and Volunteer Management, be awarded to the Canadian Red Cross Society in the estimated amount of \$177,256.67 for a 16-month term, all in accordance with Procurement By-Law 30-2018, as amended.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Under the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Order in Council, the Region of Peel is legislated to provide emergency shelter, clothing, food, registration and inquiry and personal supports and services due to an emergency or disaster in their community.
- The Region of Peel Human Services currently has a formal agreement with the CRCS to provide Preparedness Services, Core Response Services and Volunteer Management that comes to an end on August 21, 2023.
- In order to maintain disaster relief services, staff is seeking Council authority to directly negotiate a new contract with Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS) ending December 31, 2024 in the estimated amount of \$177,256.67.
- There are sufficient funds in the Housing Support Service budget to fund a new contract for Human Services Emergency Response with the portion related to 2024 subject to approval of the 2024 Budget.

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## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

The Region of Peel as a municipality, under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, R.S.O 1990, c. E.9, is legislatively required to have an emergency response program.

At present the Region of Peel has a binding agreement with the Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS) for the provision of disaster relief services including personal disaster allowance (PDA) for a period of 3 days post emergency event.

## Contract Renewal for Human Services Emergency Response – Canadian Red Cross Society

This agreement comes to an end on August 21, 2023. In order to maintain disaster relief services, staff is seeking Council authority to directly negotiate a new contract with CRCS until December 31, 2024.

### Overview of Canadian Red Cross Society Services

The CRCS is recognized officially as an auxiliary to public authorities in providing protection and assistance to people affected by emergency incidents and has the resources and mandate to assist in the provision of emergency social services. In the event of an emergency, CRCS provides the Region with the following support services (full descriptions provided in Appendix I):

- a) **Preparedness Services:** The CRCS provides education and training for disaster management personnel, preparedness workshops, training exercises, maintenance of pre-positioned stockpiles and joint planning on procedures, operational structure and response.
- b) **Core Response Services:** The CRCS provides shelter and/or reception center management services, family reunification services, emergency lodging services, reception and information services, emergency food services, personal services and emergency clothing.
- c) **Volunteer Management:** Recruitment, orientation, training, and placement of unaffiliated volunteers to be utilized by the CRCS during a Major Incident as surge capacity personnel.

## 2. Benefits of the Program

The agreement that Peel Region has with the CRCS ensures that we are prepared to deal with unforeseen situations such as fires, chemical spills, explosions, floods, injury, illness and other crisis situations. In a time where our emergency shelters are seeing an increase in need, the support CRCS provides reduces the likelihood of individuals requiring the use of emergency shelter in the event of an incident that displaces them from their home. When an incident occurs, the Region's Human Services Emergency Management Team is contacted as a first response. From there, information is gathered, and an assessment is made to determine if CRCS support is required. The table below shows the number of incidents recorded for 2021 and 2022 and the number of incidents for which CRCS provided support.

	2021	2022
Incidents Tracked*	17	20
CRCS Supported	7	11

\*incidents not part of CRCS scope of work not included (e.g. funeral support)

## RISK CONSIDERATIONS

If a new agreement is not approved, disaster relief services would become unavailable. This would destabilize the supports available to families and possibly increase service demand to the shelters.

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### **BILL 112 RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS**

Due to Bill 112, the contract with CRCS will extend only until December 31, 2024 which will then leave each city that is currently within the Region of Peel without an emergency management program and contract and will leave residents vulnerable in the event of an emergency.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The current agreement with CRCS has a yearly budget of \$129,700. It is proposed that the approved Cost of Living Adjustment of 2.5 per cent be included for the new agreement for an additional \$4,323.35 and a total 16-month budget of \$177,256.67.

There are sufficient funds in the Housing Supports approved budget to support this request. The portion of the contract related to 2024 would be subject to approval of the 2024 Budget.

### **CONCLUSION**

At present the Region of Peel has a binding agreement with the Canadian Red Cross Society for the provision of disaster relief services including personal disaster allowance for a period of 3 days post emergency event.

This agreement comes to an end on August 21, 2023. In order to maintain disaster relief services, staff is seeking Council authority to directly negotiate a new contract with Canadian Red Cross Society until December 31, 2024.

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix I - Overview of Canadian Red Cross Society Services

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Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

*Authored By: Amanda Smith-Guillarte, Program Analyst, Housing*