
REPORT TITLE: Canada HomeShare Update

FROM: Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Region of Peel approve the grant payment to the new parent organization named Help Age Canada, from the previous named National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly; and**
- 2. That the Director of Housing Services be authorized to execute a funding agreement to provide a one-time grant to a maximum of \$20,000 to Help Age Canada to support the implementation and administration of the Canada HomeShare Pilot in Peel to be funded from the Tax Rate Stabilization reserve.**

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- On June 24, 2021, Regional Council approved the Region of Peel’s participation in the Canada HomeShare Pilot program through a report from the Commissioner of Human Services, titled “Canada HomeShare: A Pilot Program in Peel Region” (Resolution 2021-675).
 - Since receiving Regional Council approval, Canada HomeShare has acquired a new parent organization, HelpAge Canada. At time of approval, Canada HomeShare was run by the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly.
 - In order to execute a funding agreement and support program implementation, staff are returning to Regional Council with revised recommendations to provide the original one-time grant to a maximum of \$20,000 to the new parent organization, HelpAge Canada.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

Based on the success of Canada HomeShare’s pilot program in the City of Toronto and learnings from the Region of Peel’s Solutions Lab, Regional Council approved Peel’s participation in the expansion of the Canada HomeShare Program.

2. Canada HomeShare Updates

a) HelpAge Canada

Since receiving Regional Council approval in 2021, Canada HomeShare has acquired a new parent organization more focused on service delivery. Canada HomeShare’s new

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parent organization, HelpAge Canada, was founded in 1975 and supports community-based initiatives through its partnerships across Canada.

Due to this change in organization, staff are returning to Regional Council to seek approval under the revised recommendations to execute a funding agreement with the new parent organization, HelpAge Canada.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The Canada HomeShare program is an innovative housing option that supports older adult and post-secondary student housing opportunities in the Region of Peel. Should this report not be approved, the Region would lose an important opportunity to be a leader in developing a home sharing program in Peel.

The Canada HomeShare program will be implemented and administered in Peel by HelpAge Canada. The Region of Peel's role is to fund the costs of program administration. As a funder, the risk to the Region is low should any difficulties arise in relation to any homeshare placements. In keeping its role limited strictly to being a funder of this initiative, the Region's potential liability related to the housing relationship is minimized. There is no contractual relationship between the Region and either party involved in the living arrangement which reduces the ability of either to take legal action against the Region.

BILL 112 RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS

Bill 112 has created a tremendous amount of uncertainty for Regional staff, as well as vendors and agencies that receive funding from and deliver services for the Region of Peel. Despite these challenges, Regional staff remain committed to supporting the implementation of the Canada HomeShare program in the Peel community to provide innovative affordable housing solutions for older adults and post-secondary students in Peel Region.

In the June 8, 2023, Regional Council report from the Chief Administrative Officer, titled "Bill 112 – Managing Through the Transition", principles for approaching the 2024 budget and existing workplans were endorsed. The first principle is "community housing construction and the continuation of enabling housing programs", which includes ongoing investments in housing subsidy and supports. This one-year pilot project should not be impacted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The one-time grant of \$20,000 was approved through Regional Council June 24, 2021, and will be funded through a draw from the Tax Rate Stabilization reserve.

CONCLUSION

Staff have provided revised recommendations in order to execute a funding agreement with Canada HomeShare. Upon Council approval, staff will continue to support the implementation of the Canada HomeShare Pilot program in Peel Region.

APPENDICES

Appendix I - Canada HomeShare: A Pilot Program in Peel Region – June 24, 2021 Regional Council Report

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for Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

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