

INTER-CITY FORUM ON SOCIAL POLICY

September 20, 2022, 11:30am – 5:00pm

Hybrid - Microsoft Teams

Time	Topic	Presenter	Outcomes
11:30am – 11:50am	Call to Order Agenda/ Amendments/ Adoption Approval of Minutes May 27, 2022	Chair Tina Petrow	Carried
11:50 am – 12:20 pm	Updates: Alberta Municipalities FCSSAA Government of Alberta FCM	Councillor Ken McKay Mellissa Kraft Stephen Gauk Executive Director of Civil Society and Community Initiatives Councillor Taneen Rudyk	For Information
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Formulate Questions for CMHC/Ministry	Chair Tina Petrow	For Discussion
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	LUNCH		
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	CMHC Presentation and Questions	Sandie Price Specialist- Outreach & Project Development Mike Wang Specialist - Multi-Unit Housing Solutions Hassan Ebrahimi Specialist - Client Solutions Esi Adih Otoo Senior Analyst, Client Solutions	For Information
3:00 pm – 3:15	BREAK		
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Housing Ministry Presentation and Questions	Sylvia Lepki Executive Director - Policy, Planning and Analytics Housing Division Seniors and Housing Ministry	For Information
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Late Night Café Presentation and Questions	Councillor Jan Gillett	For Information
5:00 pm – 5:15 pm	Business Arising/ Roundtable Discussion - 2019 FCSSAA Advocacy Toolkit	Chair Tina Petrow	For Discussion
5:15 pm – 5:20 pm	Next Meeting Date TBD Closing Remarks Adjournment	Chair Tina Petrow	For Discussion

MEETING MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Chair Tina Petrow called the meeting to order and gave the Treaty 6, 7, and 8 territories acknowledgement

AGENDA AMENDMENTS & ADOPTION

- Motion to approve the agenda as amended by Councillor Cindy Jefferies - carried
- Motion to approved meeting minutes from May 27, 2022, meeting by Councillor Jo-Anne Wright – carried

ATTENDANCE

Airdrie:	Chair Councillor Tina Petrow Clay Aragon Manager Recreation Culture and Social Planning Alexa Cooke Administrative Assistant Jessica DeVreeze Affordable Housing – Business Unit Leader
Beaumont:	Councillor Catherine McCook Kim Williston FCSSAA Director
Brooks:	Councillor Marissa Wardrop Amy Rommens Administrative Assistant to Elected Officials
Calgary:	Melanie Husker Director of Calgary Neighbourhoods Sonja Sahlen Executive Assistant to Council
Camrose:	Lyndel Kasa Executive Director, Camrose and District Support Services (FCSSAA)
Chestermere:	Councillor Ritesh Narayan Christian Lutz-Orozco Community and Social Development Officer
Cold Lake:	Kim Schmitz City Manager FCSSAA
Edmonton:	Councillor Jo-Anne Wright
Grand Prairie:	Councillor Chris Thiessen
Leduc:	Councillor Ryan Pollard Amanda Ulrichson City Manager FCSSAA
Lloydminster:	Patrick Lancaster Manager of Social Programs and Services
Medicine Hat:	Councillor Alison Van Dyke Leah Prestayko Director of Community Development
Red Deer:	Councillor Cindy Jefferies Kristin Walsh Manager-Safe and Healthy Communities
Spruce Grove:	Councillor Jan Gillett
St Albert:	Councillor Shelley Biermanski Councillor Ken MacKay Connie Smigielski Manager of Community Services
Strathcona County	Councillor Corey-Ann Hartwick Michelle Jehn Manager Community and Social Innovation
Vegerville	Councillor Taneen Rudyk FCM President
FCSSA:	Colleen Burton Ochocki Project Coordinator, FCSSAA Mellissa Kraft Executive Director, FCSSAA
GOA:	Stephen Gauk Executive Director of Civil Society and Community Initiatives Courtney Rippin Director, Community Preventive Initiatives

GUESTS

CMHC	Sandie Price Esi Adih Otoo Hassan Ebrahimi Mike Wang
FCM	Jarrah Hodge Iman Mohamed
Alberta Housing Ministry	Sylvia Lepki

UPDATES

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES (ABMUNIS)

Councillor Ken MacKay

Alberta Provincial Police Service

- Oppose the province's proposed models for an Alberta Provincial Police Service.
- Met with the Minister of Justice and Public Safety to discuss this topic.
- Believe changes to the current Provincial Police Service agreement should be driven by public safety needs.
- Called for the establishment of a diverse Public Safety Task Force to develop models and solutions to improve public safety throughout the province, regardless of who delivers community policing.

Alberta EMS Provincial Advisory Committee

- Last year 2 resolutions were passed that called for action by the province to address EMS care.
- Resulted in 10-point plan to increase EMS capacity and an EMS Provincial Advisory Committee.
- This committee has met with the Chief Paramedic and AHS to discuss current EMS challenges.

Affordable Seniors Housing

- Last November, the province released its affordable housing strategy.
- The Safe and Healthy Communities Committee provided feedback on this strategy and will continue to monitor its implementation.
- Working with the Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association to leverage their expertise and engage in joint advocacy.

Victims of Crime

- Two years ago, the Government of Alberta passed legislation that expanded the scope of the Victims of Crime Fund to include public safety initiatives, making Alberta the only province that did not restrict the use of its Victims of Crime fund to supporting victims.
- Justice and Solicitor General also replaced financial benefits for victims with an interim program while they developed a new victims' assistance model.
- ABMunis opposed these changes and worked with the Alberta Police-Based Victim Services Association to launch an MLA letter writing campaign, calling the province to reverse the changes and provide ongoing, sustainable funding to victim services programs. This campaign was successful.
- The province has unveiled plans to restructure oversight and governance for police-based victims' services units.
- This is surprising, since the province's previous engagement never consulted on any changes to the service delivery model that would require case workers to reapply for their jobs.
- ABMunis heard concerns from our members on the potential impacts of service delivery
- The province has indicated that they will be engaging the new model in the coming months, so there will be more work here for the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee.

2022-23 Priorities

- Advocating for improvements to Alberta's mental health and addictions system, including action to address opioid and methamphetamine use.
- Monitoring and providing feedback on the implementation of the provincial affordable housing strategy.
- Advocating for the cessation of discharging people from provincial systems (e.g., healthcare, justice) into homelessness.

FCSSAA Mellissa Kraft

- FCSSAA Annual Conference will be November 16-18 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton The theme for the conference is *Stronger Together*. The keynote speakers are Dr. Jody Carrington and Hal Johnson and Joanne Macleod of Body Break and the Amazing race.

Registration is now open: <https://fcssaa.org/fcssaa-conference/>

- AGM will be held following the conference at 10:30 am on November 18th

Government of Alberta Stephen Gauk

Accountability Framework

- The FCSAA program has a new accountability framework that will be implemented in January 2023.
- The development of the framework was a collaborative process that was led by a steering committee that included stakeholders from FCSSAA, rural Municipalities of Alberta, Alberta Municipalities and ministries including Health, Seniors and Housing, Children's Services, and Municipal Affairs.
- Key components of the framework include:
 - A common definition of prevention
 - Provincial prevention priorities and strategies to address them
 - A clear governance structure including a steering committee
 - A streamlined outcomes model and key performance measures.
- The framework will be shared later this fall.

FCM Taneen Rudyk – Councillor Town of Vegreville, FCM President

- We trying to make good policy that will impact our residents, but at the same time we don't want to accept additional responsibility from the province or the federal government.

Housing Affordability

- Housing affordability is a top concern across the country
- There are unhelpful narratives that are blaming municipalities for the problem
- Taking a pro-active approach to show municipalities are problem-solvers; to remind that the source of homelessness is not a jurisdictional issue.
- 4-billion-dollar Housing Accelerator fund must be designed in collaboration with the municipalities and recognize the areas of greatest need.
- Increase the acknowledgement at the federal level that housing is tied to infrastructure: the way to boost housing supply is to build an infrastructure that is connected to GHG emissions.
- Municipalities need to be at the forefront of this, making the right decisions for their communities.

Homelessness

- Many cities are dealing with encampments.
- Need to ensure that when units are created, like rapid housing initiatives, that the necessary wrap around services are available.
- Pushing for more flexible funding in these situations so there is access to supports when the provinces aren't stepping in.
- Calling on the Federal government to establish a timeline with clear milestones and measurable objectives with the shared goal of ending homelessness including:
 - a national standard for overdose data
 - meaningful federal response on harm reduction
 - emergency funds for treatment
- Scale up Rapid Housing Initiative
- Expand the Reaching Home homelessness program

Opioid Crisis/Mental Health

- Cities have been on the frontlines of the opioid crisis and FCM and our Big City Mayors Caucus have been leading the call for a coordinated national response by all orders of government.
- Progress has included steps toward a national standard for overdose data, a meaningful federal response on harm reduction and emergency funds for treatment.

- Our top priority is expanding access to a variety of harm reduction and treatment options.

Reconciliation

- Advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action by deepening engagement and coordination with all levels to move forward on this topic:
 - Create opportunities to share best practices
 - Partnerships between municipalities and neighbouring indigenous communities

CMHC PRESENTATION

Sandie Price

(see attachment)

In 2017 CMHC launched Canada's National Housing Strategy with the goal that by 2030 everyone in Canada would have a home that they could afford, that met their needs. Most of the money is invested in populations that need the money the most. These projects are close to amenities, affordable, 5+ units or beds, serve a priority population, are energy efficient, and have accessibility features. The projects look different in different communities.

CMHC works with municipalities

Community Plan – Policy Tools

- Housing Strategy
 - Determine need and demand
 - Involve community stakeholders
 - Define targets and actions
- Secondary Plans
 - Align land use and infrastructure plans to support affordable housing
- Economic Development Plans
 - Attract business includes housing needs
- Advocacy
 - Work with other levels of government to address gaps

Financial Tools – Tools to Fund affordable housing directly and indirectly

- Direct Funding
 - As an affordable housing provider
 - Housing Fund for contributions and loans
- Land Contributions
 - Donate/Discount of land or facilities
 - Temporary use on city owned land
 - Co-location with community amenities
- Exemptions and Waivers
 - Tax credits/exemptions
 - Waiving or reduction of development fees and charges

Regulatory Tools – Remove barriers to facilitate affordable housing

- Enable Regulations
 - Flexible zoning by-law
 - Permissive development standards
- Incentive Based Regulations
 - Streamlining application process
 - Inclusionary zoning
 - Anti-NIMBYism initiatives
- Protective Regulations
 - Replacement policies
 - Vacancy Tax
 - Enforcement of property standards

Affordable Housing Innovation Fund

- \$500.8M over 6 years, or until all funds are committed, whichever comes first.
- Minimum of 10,800 units, of which 6,000 are affordable
- Objectives
 - Innovative approaches
 - Knowledge transfer
 - Encourage partnerships
 - Address climate change challenges
 - Create inclusive and accessible communities
- Eligibility
 - Municipalities
 - Non-profit housing providers and community housing organizations
 - Private developers and builders
 - Indigenous Government, First Nation, Metis, and Inuit
 - Any other proponent interested in developing and testing innovative approaches to affordable housing

Rent to Own

- \$100M to support rent to own
- Want to create 1300 units
- Transition from rental to ownership in 5 years

HOUSING MINISTRY PRESENTATION Sylvia Lepki (see attachment) **Stronger Foundation Strategy**

- Access to safe, adequate housing is essential
- More than 500,000 Albertans are spending more than 30% of their income on shelter
- Demand for affordable housing continues to grow
- 110,000 Albertans live in provincial housing, 24,000 are on waitlists
- Most buildings are 35+ years old
- Move from GOA owning housing to being a regulator and funder
- Less rules more flexibility
- Less ambiguity between the province and municipalities
- More demand-side subsidization

Targets

- Increase total households by 25,000
- Reduce the number of low-income households paying more than 30% of income on housing
- Reduce the number of low-income households paying over 50% of income on housing
- Reduce the number of households on a waitlist by 30%
- Increase the number of accessible or adaptable units
- Increase housing available at 10-30% below average market rent
- Double the number of households receiving rent supplement
- Increase the proportion of operators using mixed-income development models

Housing Needs Assessments

- Affordable housing needs assessment
- Guidelines and templates were shared on July 11, 2022
- Secure website to allow the completed needs assessments to be submitted electronically was scheduled to be available this past summer
- Stakeholder information sessions are being planned for this fall

Social Housing Accommodation Regulation (SHAR)

Government is moving forward with amendments that will:

- Move all households Line 1500 of the CRAs NOA for income verification
- Amend the definition of household income so that income is not counted from anyone under the age of 22
- Remove the exemption for RRSP/RRIP income withdrawals for senior household in community or Seniors Self-Contained Housing (to align income rules for seniors in lodge housing)
- Simplify the prioritization point score and provide more decision making to the local HMB

Regulatory amendments are under development and are expected to come into effect in 2023

Asset Management Framework for 3000+ Assets – page 16 of attachment

- Assess condition, development potential, property value, operational efficiency
- Sell, or transfer, to local housing providers to retain as is/or re-invest

Next Steps

- Seniors Lodge review
- Capital Maintenance and Renewal Program
- Affordable Housing Partnership Program and Asset Framework
- Explore opportunities to clarify and expand tax exemptions for affordable housing

LATE NIGHT CAFÉ PRESENTATION Councillor Jan Gillet

Late-night Café (LNC) is a collaborative committee organizes space for the homeless population during the coldest months of the year when death from exposure is an eminent concern.

- Organized space, cot, laundered, bedding
- With the help of fire and city planning they were able to come up with a plan that allowed the guests to spend the night
- Warm meal, warm beverages
- Winter supplies
- Runs November 1 - April 1 7pm - 7am when the temperature -20 including wind-chill
- Trained volunteers and Coordinators
- Taxis bring the 'guests' to the location
- Guests leave in the morning with a gift certificate for a warm drink at Tim Hortons or McDonalds
- The program is largely run by a grant from the rotary club and donations
- Recently City Council approved \$27,000/year for five years (pending an annual review each year) for coordinators, mental health supports etc.
- They are also working with FCSSAA and local stakeholders to provide to wrap-around services, including an addictions group with the goal of transitioning out of homelessness.

BUSINESS ARISING/ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The committee agreed to review the advocacy toolkit along with the questionnaire that will be emailed out in late October with the expectation that it will be returned by late November.

Connie Smigielski asked that each municipality reach out to her and confirm what email that wanted invoices emailed to

PROPOSED NEXT MEETING

Hybrid meeting in January, date to be confirmed.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chair Tina Petrow thanked everyone for all their hard work and great conversation.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm