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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 2, 2012
FROM:	CINDY HOWARD DIRECTOR SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES
SUBJECT	HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Social and Community Support Services, with the concurrence of the Executive Director of Community Services, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy with the Government of Canada:

- a) the Contribution Agreement between the City and Her Majesty in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, substantially in the form attached as Schedule 1 and to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor **BE APPROVED**;
- b) the attached proposed By-Law (Appendix A) **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting of April 10, 2012 to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement approved in paragraph a) above;
- c) the form Sub Project Funding Agreement attached as Schedule 2 to implement the Contribution Agreement **BE APPROVED**; and
- d) the attached proposed By-Law (Appendix B) **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting of April 10, 2012 to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Community Services to execute Sub-Project Funding Agreements approved in paragraph c) above.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Homelessness Partnering Strategy Contribution Agreement – Community Entity Model (CPSC: April 16, 2007)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Community Entity Model (CPSC: September 24, 2007)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Allocation of Funds (CPSC: March 17, 2008)
- London CARES Phase One Authorization and Funding (BOC: July 16, 2008)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy (CPSC: March 23, 2009)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy Contribution Agreement (CPSC: March 1, 2010)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy Contribution Agreement (BOC: March 3, 2010)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Designated Communities – Community Entity – Funding Agreement (CNC: May 3, 2011)
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy Contribution Agreement – Community Entity – Sub-Project Funding Agreement (CNC: June 14, 2011)
- RFP11-40 London CARES Housing Stability Component – Contribution Agreement with Unity Project for Relief of Homelessness in London (CNC: November 29, 2011)

BACKGROUND

Due, in part to the City’s ability to deliver on this Community Entity role and in recognition of the leading work on homelessness that is underway in London, the Government of Canada has approached the Civic Administration to invite London to serve as the “sponsor and project manager” for a twenty-four (24) month national research and evaluation project aimed at reducing homelessness within one target population.

This report provides available details about the project and recognizes that the Government of Canada will be making a more formal announcement in due course. In order to proceed, the



administration is recommending approval of two by-laws.

The National Project

The Federal Government, through its Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), is initiating a twenty-four (24) month national research and evaluation initiative aimed at reducing homelessness within one target population. The four research sites are: Victoria, British Columbia; Calgary, Alberta; Toronto, Ontario and London, Ontario. This project is fully funded by the Federal Government to an upset limit of \$2M. The researcher selected by HPS is a faculty member of The University of Western Ontario.

Addressing homelessness is a challenge in all regions of Canada. The Homelessness Partnering Strategy partners with provinces and territories, municipalities, communities, and the private and voluntary sectors to strengthen capacity and to ensure sustainability. It carries out research to foster a better understanding of homelessness, and it collects and promotes best practices to help design the most effective responses. The Homelessness Partnering Strategy recognizes that stable housing is a basic requirement for improving health, parenting, education and employment and supports community initiatives that use a housing-first approach to help individuals and families move to greater autonomy and self-sufficiency. Under the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy Horizontal Pilot Projects, joint initiatives are undertaken with other federal departments and agencies to explore innovative ways to prevent and reduce homelessness.

London's Community Housing Strategy and the Community Plan on Homelessness share a similar approach to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and the strategies and directions of London's plans link favourably to this research project.

The Role of the City

The City is being asked to serve as the sponsor and project manager. The Horizontal Pilot Project includes specific roles for the City of London to coordinate the research and evaluation of four sites across Canada testing a model to support a solution to homelessness.

As well, the City will host two national forums bringing together representatives from the four sites, departments of the federal government and the research team. In addition, London has been selected as one of the research sites complementing our London CARES team.

The scope of the project requires a project team be in place and separate office space to support the project mandate. Realty Services is negotiating the lease for office space and working with the City Solicitor's office. Once Council has approved the Contribution Agreement the lease agreement will be executed.

Contractual Arrangements

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Horizontal Pilot Projects has prepared a contract with the City of London for this project.

This contract is identical to one currently in place. The City has an existing HRSDC Homelessness Partnering Strategy contract for the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014. At its session held on May 9, 2011, Municipal Council approved the Funding Agreement with Human Resources and Skills Development under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Further, at its session held on June 20, 2011, Municipal Council resolved to approve the template Sub-Project Funding Agreement for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and to authorize the Executive Director of Community Services to execute the Agreement. The form of Contribution Agreement and Sub-Project Funding Agreement for this Project are the same as the ones previously approved by Council in the spring of 2011.

Since 2007, the City of London has served as the Community Entity for the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). A Community Entity is funded through HPS and enters into Sub-Project Agreements with services and programs that engage in activities approved through the Community Plan on Homelessness.

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An update regarding the launch of the National Project and ongoing progress reports, along with the final report will be presented to the Community Services Committee and Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact for this twenty four (24) month project which commences on April 1, 2012 and concludes March 31, 2014. The National Project is 100% funded by the federal government.

Conclusion

This National Project profiles London's leadership in developing lasting solutions to working with individuals experiencing homelessness. This Project fit within the Council approved Community Housing Strategy and Community Plan on Homelessness. There will be ongoing communication with federal representatives leading to a better understanding of London's needs and expertise and funding requirements for services and programs for London.

SUBMITTED BY:	
Jan Richardson Manager, Homelessness, Hostels & Special Populations Social & Community Support Services	
RECOMMENDED BY:	CONCURRED BY:
Cindy Howard Director, Social & Community Support Services Community Services Department	Ross L. Fair Executive Director Community Services Department

- c. Anna Lisa Barbon, Manager, Financial and Business Services
 Louise Stevens, Director, Housing Division