

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2011
FROM:	CINDY HOWARD DIRECTOR, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES
SUBJECT:	PROVINCIAL INCREASE TO MAXIMUM PER DIEM RATE AND PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR EMERGENCY SHELTERS

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 proposed by-law attached as Appendix A **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting of December 5, 2011 to increase the maximum per diem rate payable to emergency shelter operators for costs of board and lodging pursuant to an "Emergency Hostel Services Agreement" from the rate of \$43.00 to \$43.50 in accordance with the provincially approved maximum cost sharable rate, effective December 1, 2011.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Municipal Council regularly reviews and has approved emergency shelter rate increases based on the recommendation of the Executive Director of Community Services and periodic revisions to the Provincial maximum cost sharable amount.

BACKGROUND

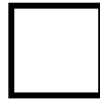
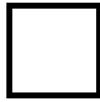
On October 21, 2011, the Province announced a 1% rate increase to maximum emergency shelter per diem and personal needs allowance effective December 1, 2011. These revised rates assist emergency shelter residents and emergency shelter providers to address the increasing costs associated with day-to-day living and provision of related services.

The maximum per diem rate payable to emergency shelter operators that provide personal items and/or money to residents (Personal Needs Allowance) pursuant to an "Emergency Hostel Services Agreement" is increased from \$4.30 to \$4.40. This 1% increase is effective December 1, 2011. The Province will pay 100% of the cost of the 1% in rates for the 2011 calendar year. Effective January 1, 2012, this increase will be cost-shared. Cost share prior to 2011 was 80% Provincial, 20% Municipal. In 2012 cost share will be 82.8% Provincial, 17.2% Municipal. Net cost increases associated with these adjustments are addressed within the 2012 Community Services Department budget submission. Shelter per diems will be uploaded to the Province by 2018.

The Personal Needs Allowance is a mandatory Ontario Works benefit to support eligible residents in emergency shelters and interval and transition homes for abused women.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There will be no financial impact in 2011 as the Province is committed to funding 100% of the increase. The 2012 draft budget includes this rate increase at a net cost of approximately \$16,000. This will be offset by additional subsidy from the Provincial upload.



Emergency Shelter Rate Composition	Current Daily Rate	Revised Daily Rate Dec 1, 2011	Notes
Board and Lodging Per Diem Rate	\$43.00	\$43.50	Maximum rate paid to emergency shelters that the Province will cost share.
Personal Needs Allowance	\$4.30	\$4.40	Paid to the residents of emergency shelters as well as interval and transition homes for abused women.
TOTAL	\$47.30	\$47.90	

Conclusions

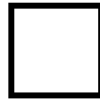
We acknowledge the support from Financial and Business Services in the preparation of this report.

We continue to work with all our emergency shelter providers and homelessness service partners in an effort to minimize reliance on hostels and maximize available supports to London's most vulnerable individuals and families.

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

Attached: Appendix A Proposed By-law

- c. Elaine Sauve, Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Anna Lisa Barbon, Manager, Financial and Business Services
- Steve Giustizia, Manager, Ontario Works and Homelessness
- Bob Newman, Ontario Works Manager, Hostels
- Local Emergency Shelter Providers:
 - The Unity Project for Relief of Homelessness in London
 - Salvation Army Centre of Hope
 - Mission Services, Men's Mission and Rehabilitation Centre
 - Mission Services, Rotholme Women's and Family Shelter
 - Women's Community House
 - At Lohsa Native Family Healing Services



Appendix A

Bill No.
2011

By-law No.

A By-law to approve an increase in the maximum per diem rate for board and lodging paid to emergency shelters for emergency hostel services and to approve an increase in the maximum per diem rate for the personal needs allowance

WHEREAS section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. 2001, c.25, provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS section 6 of Ontario Regulation 135/98 under the *Ontario Works Act, 1997* provides that a delivery agent may contract with a person or organization for the provision of emergency hostel services;

AND WHEREAS the City of London has contracted with various operators of emergency hostels that provide emergency hostel services;

AND WHEREAS “emergency hostel services” is defined in Ontario Regulation 134/98 to mean “the provision of board, lodging and personal needs to homeless persons on a short term, infrequent basis, but does not include the provision of services to residents of interval or transition homes for abused women”;

AND WHEREAS subsection 43(2) of Ontario Regulation 134/98 provides that the budgetary requirements for an applicant or recipient of emergency hostel services shall be an amount approved by the Director for providing the benefit unit with board, lodging and personal needs;

AND WHEREAS section 8.2 of Ontario Regulation 135/98, to come into force on December 1, 2011 provides that Ontario shall pay 100 per cent of the increase in the assistance costs that result from an increase, commencing in December 2011, in an amount approved by the Director for emergency hostel services in accordance with subsection 43(2) of Ontario Regulation 134/98;

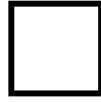
AND WHEREAS the Director of Ontario Works has issued a Memorandum dated October 21, 2011 that provides: “Effective December 1, 2011, per diem amounts will increase by one per cent to \$43.50 per day for board and lodging, and up to a maximum of \$4.40 per day, where emergency hostel operators provide personal items and/or money in addition to board and lodging.”

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. The maximum per diem rate payable to emergency shelter operators for costs of board and lodging pursuant to an “Emergency Hostel Services Agreement” is increased from the rate of \$43.00 to \$ 43.50 in accordance with the provincially approved maximum cost sharable rate, effective December 1, 2011. The maximum per diem rate payable to emergency shelter operators that provide personal items and/or money to residents (Personal Needs Allowance) pursuant to an “Emergency Hostel Services Agreement” is increased from \$4.30 to \$ 4.40.
2. This by-law shall come into force and effect on December 5, 2011.

Agenda Item #

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PASSED in Open Council on

, 2011.

Joe Fontana
Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk

First Reading -
Second Reading –
Third Reading –