



**City of Kingston  
Special Housing and Homelessness  
Advisory Committee  
Meeting Number 03-2019  
Confirmed Minutes  
Tuesday July 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.  
Malting Tower, Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning**

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**Committee Members Present**

Peter Clarke, Community Leadership Committee; Chair  
Councillor Doherty  
Councillor Holland  
Melodie Ballard  
Jacqueline Collier, Kingston Home Builders Association  
Francesca Creet, tenant representative  
Robert Rittwage  
Frances Smith, Deputy Warden, County of Frontenac (left meeting at 3:00 p.m.)  
Ted Smith, Community Advisory Board on Homelessness Representative

**Regrets**

None

**Staff Members Present**

Joanne Borris, Housing Program Administrator  
Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing & Social Services  
Ruth Noordegraaf, Manager, Housing & Child Care  
Derek Ochej, Committee Clerk

**Others Present**

Kim Lamothe, Traditional Knowledge Keeper  
Members of the Public were present

**Meeting to Order**

Mr. Clarke called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

The Committee consented to the approval of the agenda.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

There was none.

### **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were none.

### **Delegations**

There were none.

### **Briefings**

There were none.

### **Business**

#### **a) Roundtable discussion regarding Indigenous housing issues and culturally supportive housing**

The Committee engaged in a facilitated talking circle led by Kim Lamothe, regarding Indigenous housing issues and culturally supportive housing.

Mr. Clarke and Ms. Lamothe provided an overview of the format of the meeting and the protocol that would be followed as part of the talking circle.

The following themes were discussed by the participants in the talking circle:

- The concerns of tenants need to be heard within the system of housing;
- There is a lack of rent-geared-to-income and affordable housing buildings in Kingston. The City should look to existing, surplus buildings, such as churches or schools, and convert those into residential buildings;
- The concept of housing as a human right needs to be stated to all levels of government;
- The solution to issues surrounding Indigenous housing and homelessness needs to come from within the existing organizations. There needs to be recognition of

the uneven playing ground that exists for Indigenous people as a result of colonization and that not all people are starting in the same place;

- The history of colonization has led to the current housing and homelessness situation;
- The City and its partners need to take ownership as a collective for the socio-historical issues associated with Indigenous peoples, and this needs to happen within the bureaucracy;
- It was recommended that the initiation of cultural proficiency training and understanding the effect of disconnection from culture for City staff be undertaken;
- There needs to be a recruitment of the Indigenous perspective, with an understanding of history to help create balance into the future;
- A lack of identity as it relates to knowledge of culture has led to many issues of housing crisis and homelessness for Indigenous peoples. The creation of a Friendship Centre or cultural space would help to solve this problem;
- The City needs to take on a leadership role and work with others levels of government to inform the public on issues surrounding Indigenous housing and homelessness;
- There needs to be recognition for how housing is closely related to wellness in terms of providing health care;
- Vulnerabilities are not always visible and people may not be aware of other people's suffering;
- There needs to be more awareness regarding the peripheral systems that affect housing, such as welfare and Children's Aid Society;
- There is a need for not just individual housing but also communal styles of housing to help people connect with their cultural needs;
- There are social benefits to allowing people to choose their own communities within which to live;
- Recognition of the importance of terminology in the areas of housing and homelessness. Much of the work is done within colonial structures and some people cannot work within those structures;

- Indigenous people and homeless people cannot have people speaking for them; rather, they need to speak for themselves;
- Patience is important in achieving solutions. Truthful conversations with and about people who are struggling is needed.

**b) 10-Year Municipal Housing and Homelessness Plan Midpoint Review – Indigenous Engagement Session**

The report was considered as part of Business Item a).

**Motions**

There were none.

**Notices of Motion**

There were none.

**Other Business**

There was none.

**Correspondence**

There was none.

**Date and time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2019.

**Adjournment**

The meeting of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**Carried**