

BRIEFING NOTE B07-22

For Information or For Approval

Date: January 26, 2022

Purpose: **Resolution for Member Municipalities in Support of Provincial Funding for Housing and Health Supports**

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RECOMMENDATION:

Whereas the 2021 Point in Time Count identified 300 people in the District as homeless, indicating a steady increase from previous counts; and,

THAT while Government funding has provided capital dollars throughout the pandemic for the development of the Gateway Campus to provide emergency and transitional housing to the District's most vulnerable, there is no health and housing funding to support operations, and;

THAT while DNSSAB continues to advocate for housing and health funding with the Province to staff and meet the needs of the District's most vulnerable;

Be it resolved THAT area municipalities be encouraged to advocate for housing and health staffing support funding for the District's transitional housing development known as Gateway House with the provincial government.

BACKGROUND:

At the December 15, 2021, members passed the 2022 DNSSAB Budget (FA12-21), which indicated:

"In October 2021, the Board approved the construction of an additional 25 transitional housing units (Gateway House Phase 3) to be completed by March 31, 2023, that will be staffed 24/7. The goal of this project is to be a high support alternative to the temporary low barrier emergency shelter that is currently located in portables on the Gateway House site. There is currently no provincial or federal operating funding available to fund this project."

In addition, it was reported at the same meeting that the results of the latest Point in Time count (October 2021) shows that the number of people experiencing homeless (300) has steadily increased in recent years.

Also at that meeting, members felt strongly that municipalities should not carry the burden of funding operations at the Gateway House Campus that serves the most vulnerable in the District, as this is seen as a Provincial responsibility.

CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:

The DNSSAB continues to seek support from the provincial government for housing and health dollars and welcomes member municipalities to do the same.

NEXT STEPS:

The DNSSAB asks that member municipalities join in the advocacy efforts with the Province to obtain funding to provide housing and health supports for the District's most vulnerable.