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Date: April 24, 2024

## **Resolution 2024-09: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)**

### Background:

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) are two National Housing Strategy funding streams that are federally and provincially funded and transferred to Ontario Housing Service Managers such as the Kenora District Services Board. COCHI was designed to help Ontario Housing Service Managers and communities protect and renew existing social housing stock, protect affordability for families, seniors and individuals living in social housing, and to expand the supply of community housing over time. The OPHI was designed to support Ontario Housing Service Managers to help communities address local housing priorities, including affordability, repair, and new construction. As part of the Canada and Ontario signing of the Bilateral Agreement through the Nation Housing Strategy, the COCHI funding represents the re-investment of federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement (COSHA). The COCHI was intended to provide Ontario Housing Service Managers and housing providers an opportunity to address the challenges associated with housing portfolios reaching the end of their operating agreements and mortgage maturities. More importantly, the annual allocation of the COCHI funding for the Ontario Housing Service Managers was mainly determined by the amount required to offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the COSHA. However, in 2023/24, the funding formula was altered, and the KDSB will be receiving approximately \$551,301 less compared to the 2019 base year. The decrease in annual funding is projected to \$1,635,929 by 2028.

### Recommendation:

WHEREAS the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) are Federal and Provincial funding programs designed to help Ontario Housing Service Managers and communities protect and renew existing social housing stock, protect affordability for families, seniors and individuals living in social housing, and to expand the supply of community housing over time; and

WHEREAS the COCHI funding represents the re-investment of federal funding that has been declining under the COSHA and was intended to provide Ontario Housing Service Managers such as the Kenora District Services Board and District Housing Providers the opportunity to address the challenges associated with housing portfolios reaching the end of their operating agreements and mortgage maturities; and

WHEREAS the COCHI funding for the Ontario Housing Service Managers was mainly determined by the amount required to offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the COSHA; and

WHEREAS the Kenora District Services Board and District Municipalities will be receiving approximately \$551,301 less compared to the 2019 base funding year and will continue to see a funding decrease of \$1.63 million by 2028; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that by 2030, the District of Kenora's community housing portfolio's capital deficit will reach \$30.28 million; and

WHEREAS the District Municipalities continue to grow and provide the backbone of Ontario's mining and resource extraction ambitions, the COCHI and OPHI programs need to ensure that communities are given the tools to work with Ontario and prepare for this growth; and

NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association requests that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing change the COCHI and OPHI funding allocation formula so that Ontario Housing Service Managers continue to receive, at minimum, an allocation that will offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the COSHA setting 2019 as the base year; and

and further THAT the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing ensure that the COCHI and OPHI programs provided to Municipalities with the funding based on the needs of the communities, not presumptive census data.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED



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President