

Affordable Housing Action Network (AHAN)
Meeting Notes
June 14, 2005

Meeting Co-facilities: Reta Sheppard and Scott Robertson

1. **Presentation to Social Services Committee of County Council:** The presentation to the Social Services Committee of Hasting County Council is rescheduled to July 13, 2005. It will take place at the County Building. A presentation will be developed that can be used by all committee members to outline the work of the Affordable Housing Action Network
2. **Federal Provincial Agreement:** Some detail is now available about the Federal Provincial agreement on Affordable Housing. The amount is \$600 million. It will fund: building and renovating; Rent Supplement; home ownership and northern community projects.

There are 3 stages:

- A rent supplement program that will come first. It will not be the same as the current rent supplement program. A threshold will be established for qualifying and a \$250 per month supplement will provide to all households that fall below the threshold.
- Building and renovating detail should be available in the fall
- Home ownership details should be available by the end of the year

The program aim is to provide 20,000 units province wide.

The programs will have a number of focuses. Victims of domestic violence, developmentally challenged and mental health.

Information will be sent to the mailing list as they become available.

2. **South Hastings Access to Affordable Housing** has contributed funds so that an administrative assistant can assist with funding proposals.
3. **Supportive Community Partner Initiative (SCPI):** We are still awaiting a response to our proposal. If successful the proposal would provide funding to support the activities of the Affordable Housing Action network through to March 2005
4. **Rural Homelessness Initiative:** A year ago the Housing Working Group wrote a letter of interest to the federal government indicating interest in this initiative. We are awaiting a response.
5. **Youth Habilitation:** Youth Hab has applied for funding for a youth housing advocate
6. **Canadian Mental Health Association:** CMHC has applied for additional funding for Our House.

7. Task Force Info:

- **Advocacy:** Meeting with the Social Service Committee will be on July 13, 2005 at 9.30 a.m. in Committee Room 3 at the County Building. We would like a delegation to attend. The Quinte Labour Council wants to network with other unions about the activities of **AHAN** and will have a regular report at the Labour Council meetings about activities.
 - **Information Sharing:** A number of activities planned. Developing brightly coloured pamphlets. Looking for venues to present information. Planning on developing a display that can be used in shopping malls etc. Obtaining information for landlord tenant packages.
 - **Networking:** Pam Murphy and Tom Johnston will co chair this working group. This group is looking at possibilities for a web site that can be used by clients and agencies. Reta Sheppard and Tom Johnston will speak about this to see if the current housing resource site could be used.
 - **Bricks and Motor:** Patricia Roblin shared information about a home ownership seminar that is planned. A conference will be held in Toronto to discuss affordable housing initiative that work. The committee recognizes how important it is to get municipal government on board. They will be looking to municipalities for possible contributions of property. They will look to Montreal as an example of this approach. Most of the discussion at the committee has been about new housing with a little discussion about home ownership. The committee is checking out possible properties in Belleville
9. **Safe Water Drinking Act:** Gina Cockburn from the Community Legal and Advocacy Centred shared information with the committee about the Safe Water Drinking Act and the effect it is having on mobile home parks that are a source affordable housing. The current regulations require that the quality of the water in the parks reach the same level as water from water treatment plants by July 2006. Some parks are able to manage this while others are not. This will continue to be an issue.
8. **Expanding membership:** A number of organizations were identified for committee membership. Areas where posterage could take place about **AHAN** were also identified.
9. **Other:**
- The meeting voiced agreement on the stated Mission, Mandate and Values outlined for the Affordable Housing Action Network
 - It was agreed that pamphlets would be vetted by Quinte Literacy to determine reading level.

Next Meeting September 13, 2005 location to be announced.