

Council Motion in support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) “Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch” Advocacy Campaign and the Edmonton Roundtable

City of Edmonton Council Motion (December 11, 2013):

“That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ “Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch” campaign, be endorsed and that the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, sign the written resolution attached to these minutes and distribute as indicated”.

“RESOLUTION

“Development of a New Long-Term Federal Plan to Fix Canada’s Housing Crunch

“WHEREAS, a stable and secure housing system that creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens; and,

“WHEREAS the high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over \$1.1 trillion; and,

“WHEREAS housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians’ personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk; and,

“WHEREAS those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units, which is driving up rental costs and making it hard to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity; and,

“WHEREAS an inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while \$1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire; and,

“WHEREAS coordinated action is required to prevent housing issues from being offloaded onto local governments and align the steps local governments have already taken with regard to federal/provincial/territorial programs and policies; and,

“WHEREAS, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, “Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch,” calling on the federal government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada’s housing future; and,

“WHEREAS FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a council resolution supporting the campaign;

“WHEREAS the upcoming expiry of Federal Social Housing agreements will directly impact over 3,000 Social Housing units in Edmonton currently serving very low-income households;

“AND WHEREAS, Edmonton has continuing housing needs, including demand created by an active resource economy and high levels of in-migration, low rental vacancy rates, increasing rental rates, and increasing Social Housing waiting lists (including 4,500 for the Capital Region Housing Corporation alone), that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by Federal leadership;

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that council endorses the FCM housing campaign and urges the minister of employment and social development to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of \$1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians.

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Jason Kenny, Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada;

“to the Honourable Ken Hughes, Minister of Municipal Affairs;

“to the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health; the Honourable Tim Uppal, Minister of State for Multiculturalism; James Rajotte, Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Leduc; Honourable Laurie Hawn, Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre; Mike Lake, Member of Parliament for Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont; Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton – East; Brent Rathgeber, Member of Parliament for Edmonton – St. Albert; and Linda Duncan, Member of Parliament for Edmonton – Strathcona; and

"to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association."