

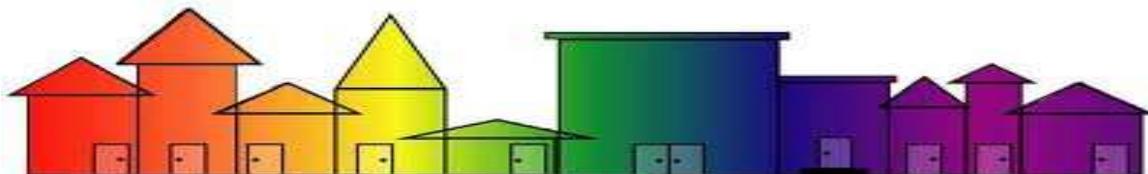


Ten Year Housing Plan

City of Cornwall and the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

2014 – 2024

First Annual Update
(2014-2015)



Provincial Vision

Ontario's vision for affordable housing is to improve access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing, and provide a solid foundation on which to secure employment, raise families and build strong communities.

Ontario Housing Policy Statement, 2011

As Service Manager for the City of Cornwall and United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, the following vision has been developed:

Our Vision for Cornwall SDG

A strong, healthy, sustainable community with a wide range of appropriate, and affordable housing options in which individuals and families can thrive.

City of Cornwall, 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Housing is one of the most fundamental of human needs. It is also a key driver shaping the economic and social sustainability of communities, a vehicle for social inclusion and an important component of growth. Access to safe, affordable and adequate housing touches almost every aspect of a community’s well-being and affects all of its members. Communities with a range of housing choices that meet the full range of their housing needs – including the needs of low and moderate income citizens – are generally more livable, more economically competitive and resilient. A growing body of research shows that access to good quality affordable housing supports not only low and moderate income households, but also has positive community-wide benefits related to economic competitiveness, health, education and community well-being.”

Municipal Tools for Affordable Housing, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2011

Based on an analysis of demographic data and projections, current housing stock, and input from extensive community engagement, ten Strategies were recommended in the Ten Year Housing Plan.

Actions Taken Throughout 2014-2015

STRATEGY 1: To improve communication about available programs and services to assist residents to find and retain housing.

- **Chamber Spring Home & Leisure Show** - The Social Housing Division showcased its programs with other City departments as part of City Central held at the Civic Complex meeting hundreds of residents from Cornwall and SD&G.
- **Fraternité Alexandria Inc (Alexandria Fraternity Club) - Senior Information Day** - The Social Housing Division participated in this French language event in Alexandria to highlight programs and services available throughout Cornwall and SD&G.
- **Dundas County 50 + Wellness Day** - The Social Housing Division showcased its programs at this event which was held in Dixon’s Corners; this event was sponsored by J.W. MacIntosh Seniors Support Centre, Carefor/Nor-Dun Seniors Support Centre and the Municipality of South Dundas.

- **SCM Job Fair** – Provided information at the Job Fair held as the company was looking to fill between 50 and 60 positions as they launched their new High Velocity Distribution Centre (HVDC) in Cornwall.
- **SDG Community Consultation on the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy** - This project was a collaborative initiative with Linking Hands (a project of the House of Lazarus), the Poverty Working Group and the Social Development Council of Cornwall and Area, the Eastern Ontario Health Unit and the office of Jim McDonnell MPP. The objective was to discuss the long-term effects of poverty and the importance of housing as a social determinant of health.
- **Discussions with Akwesasne Officials** - At the request of the Akwesasne Officials meetings were held to discuss differences in the delivery of Social Housing in Akwesasne and in Cornwall, SD&G and areas for mutual support.

STRATEGY 2: To make best use of existing Social & Affordable Housing stock according to needs identified.

- **Creation of New Application Form for the Social Housing Registry (English & French)** – A new single application form for all subsidized social and affordable housing has been created for introduction in 2015. Previously there were two applications (one for Families/Single and one for Seniors); there will now be one application form which will streamline the application process.
- **Updated Information Brochure (English & French)** – Created for distribution at community events and provided to community agency partners for their clients. Goal is to enable more appropriate selections by applicants seeking specific types and locations of housing.

STRATEGY 3: To enhance community partnerships, and expand available supports, essential to positive outcomes for individuals and families.

- **Stormont, Glengarry, Cornwall & Akwesasne Health Link Area** - The Social Housing Division participates as a representative on this Ministry of Health/LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) committee whose objective is to provide better, personalized care for seniors and patients with complex medical conditions. This recognizes that currently 5% of patients utilize 2/3 of health care in the community – the goal is to provide more appropriate care in the right place at the right time.

“Ontario continues to integrate and improve access to health care – making health care more accessible and providing the kind of high needs continuous care in their homes and communities that works best for patients. We’re focusing on ways to provide seniors and patients with high needs with continuous care in their homes and prevent avoidable hospital admissions.”

Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

- **Community Paramedic Program** – An example of the Health Link initiative is demonstrated through the Community Paramedic Program, in which members of Cornwall SD&G Emergency Medical Services will be providing at-home care to select residents in the community, with a focus on seniors and patients living with chronic conditions. This program will potentially assist social housing tenants to remain in their apartments for a longer period of time with a better quality of life.
- **Domestic Violence Initiative Community Partner – Focus Group** - The Counselling and Support Services of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Cornwall Community Police Services, Social Development Council of S.D.&G. and the Children’s Aid Society of S.D.&G partnered to develop a new approach in reducing the number of Domestic Violence repeat offenders. A community based study committed to identifying, understanding and measuring the impact of Domestic Violence, this initiative’s primary focus is to develop supportive measures to assist high risk offenders, addressing the need to reduce Domestic cases in Cornwall.

Note: As per the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, social housing applicants who are victims of domestic abuse can obtain special priority on the Social Housing Waitlist, this means that they are placed at the top of the waitlist.

- **Habitat for Humanity Seaway Chapter** – Through the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) program, the City of Cornwall entered into a partnership with Habitat for Humanity Seaway Chapter for the delivery of the Homeownership component, thus providing low-income families with access to down payment assistance for the purchase of a home.
- **Hoarding Coalition** - Social Housing Division staff has been participating in meetings of the Hoarding Coalition of Cornwall and SD&G in order to prepare a Hoarding Protocol. Other agencies participating in the coalition: Canadian Mental Health Association, Cornwall Community Police Services, Ontario Provincial Police, Cornwall Protective Services, Mental Health Crisis Line, Children’s Aid Society of SD&G, Elder Abuse Prevention Program, O.S.P.C.A., Canadian Red Cross, Victim Services of S&G & A, Salvation Army, Cornwall and Counties Property Standards.

- **Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)** – Discussions are underway with local CMHA to enter into an agreement to support clients with mental health challenges resulting in hoarding. This initiative covered through CHPI funds will provide clients with intensive case management to address the safety issues associated with hoarding and ultimately allow the individual to remain housed.

STRATEGY 4: To maintain existing housing stock to ensure an ongoing supply of affordable housing.

- **Asset Planner** - As part of the Province of Ontario's long-term infrastructure plan, *Building Together*, the City of Cornwall received funding over a three year period to do strategic asset management of social housing buildings. These funds were specifically targeted to social housing infrastructure, in recognition of the asset that the social housing stock represents – Estimated Asset Valuation of the entire portfolio per property tax assessments was \$180 Million (2012). The inspection of all social housing buildings has been completed and the Building Condition Assessments (BCA's) are being finalized. These BCA's will assist Social Housing Providers in their capital forecasts and investments in Capital Reserves for long range planning.
- **Prudent Use of Social Housing Reserve Funds** - Council approves funding from the Social Housing Reserve Funds for exceptional requirements such as urgent health and safety items (eg: emergency electrical repairs).
- **Capital Expertise to Non-Profit Housing Providers** – Social Housing Division Project Officer providing some support to Providers on exceptional capital repairs and tendering process. A key consideration with aging housing stock is setting priorities amongst competing issues as they arise.

STRATEGY 5: To advocate to senior governments for ongoing predictable funding and legislative changes to respond to current and future local housing needs and consider additional portable subsidies if/when future funding is announced.

- **Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) Extension** – Five year funding allocation received for 2015 - 2020. Council approved a combination of investments in Ontario Renovates, Rent Supplement and Homeownership (with Habitat for Humanity Seaway).

- **Ontario Renovates** - The Ontario Renovates Program is underway now. In order to ensure broad participation it was advertised on the City page of the Standard-Freeholder, the Seaway News, Glengarry News, Iroquois Chieftain, Chesterville Record, Winchester Press, and on the City & Counties' web sites. This continues to be an excellent program helping homeowners remain in their homes. See attached maps for City of Cornwall and United Counties SDG demonstrating the distribution of households accessing the program through our service area.
- **Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Technical Advisory Group** – Social Housing staff represented Eastern Ontario at MMAH consultation tables designing the new program and establishing the new funding formula.
- **Supportive Housing Consultation** – Social Housing staff nominated through AMO participated in a consultation with the Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care and Municipal Affairs and Housing. The goal was to inform Service Managers of the cross-government approach on expanding supportive housing for people with mental illness and/or addictions. One of the objectives was to hear about opportunities for better planning and coordination between the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), Service Managers, community mental health agencies, housing providers and people with lived experience to promote, support and sustain collaboration.
- **Long-term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) Renewal** – Current consultations under way include Social Housing staff through sector organizations such as OMSSA, ONPHA, Service Manager Network. A primary focus is on greater Federal/Provincial collaboration towards a Long-term Housing Strategy.

STRATEGY 6: To review Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Plan (CHPI) -- to make adjustments reflecting priorities identified in public/agency feedback.

- **Two-year MMAH funding allocation (2014/15 & 2015/16)** – Funding provides some stability for programs including Domiciliary Hostels and Homelessness Prevention. Upcoming consideration of the new Fire regulations will have an impact on future agreements with private operators.
- **The Canadian Mental Health Association partnership** – See Hoarding preventative initiative under Strategy 3.

STRATEGY 7: To support energy efficiency initiatives in both public and private affordable housing to enhance sustainability.

- **Energy Efficiency Rebate Programs** – All Social Housing Providers in Cornwall SDG have participated in various rebate programs offered through utility companies such as Union Gas, Enbridge, Hydro One (Green Loan Program for appliances).
- **Ontario Renovates (OR)** – Homeowners accessing the OR program are strongly encouraged to use energy-saving products or systems. Energy efficiency and water conservation measures are promoted wherever possible for the required repairs to the homes.
- **Building Condition Assessment (BCA)** – Heating and ventilation systems along with building envelope components are considered in the analysis of current and future capital requirements.

STRATEGY 8: To use tools available in both City and County Official Plans to encourage a broad range of affordable housing options.

- **Planning Advisory Committee Hearing Meeting** - The Planning Department introduced an Amendment to the City of Cornwall's Heart of the City Community Improvement Plan under Program 1 – Rehabilitation & Redevelopment Program (Tax Increment Grant based) to consider the introduction of additional criteria and funding formula for projects that are either a) New construction multi-storey mixed use development or b) new construction multi-storey residential development defined to meet the needs of the Social Housing Ten Year Housing Plan and a proposed Amendment to the City of Cornwall's Brownfield Community Improvement Plan.
- **Cornwall is My Place (City's Official Plan Review)** - Social Housing Division staff actively participated in the City's Official Plan Review. `Cornwall is My Place` was an interactive opportunity to participate in the planning for the future of the City's growth and development. Social Housing staff also assisted the Planning department by facilitating group sessions for community input during this process.

STRATEGY 9: To expand the successful supportive housing partnership for persons with physical disabilities on the first floor at 330 Fourth Street East, Cornwall, to include capital and operational funding for complete modifications and ongoing supports on the second floor (this is a social housing building operated by Cornwall and Area Housing Corporation).

- **Consultation with Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) -** Social Housing staff have been in touch with officials from Champlain LHIN regarding the status of the application. It is considered “ongoing” as a continued partnership with the Canadian Red Cross.

STRATEGY 10: To work with the City of Cornwall Senior-Friendly Steering Committee to develop and implement elements of a Senior-Friendly Plan, related to "a wide range of appropriate and affordable housing options" (as outlined in Cornwall SDG Vision for Housing).

- **Senior-Friendly Cornwall** – Continuing to participate with other City departments including Long Term Care, Emergency Medical Services, Planning/Parks & Recreation, Municipal Works & Transit, Fire Services and Library Services on this initiative. An application for funding has been submitted to the Ontario Seniors Secretariat to assist with the development of a “made in Cornwall” plan. A response is anticipated over the next few months.

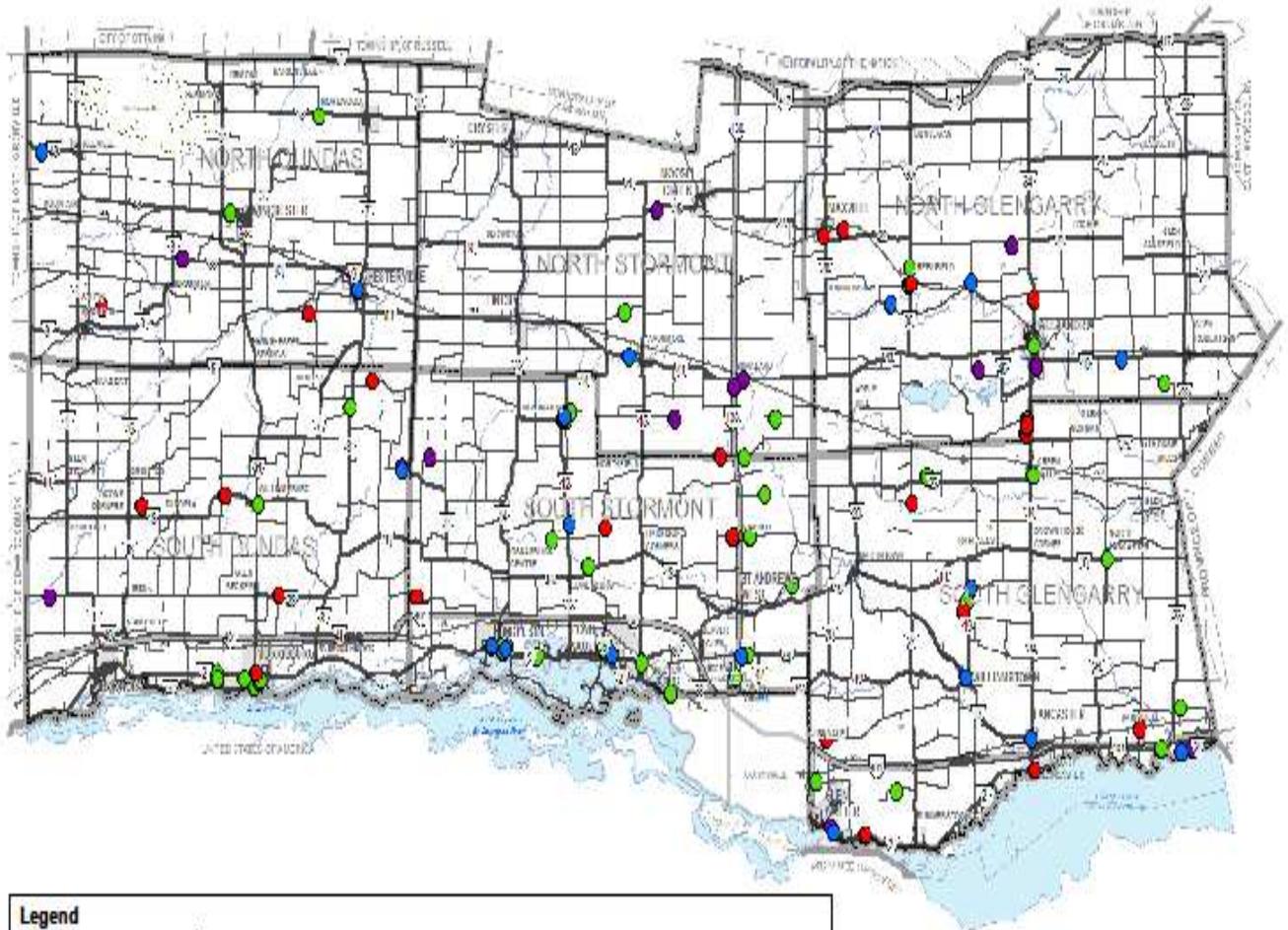
CONCLUSION

This update represents the first of ten annual reports to Council. At the five year mark a more detailed update and review of the Plan will be undertaken as required under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.

Attachments:

- Ontario Renovates Map City of Cornwall
- Ontario Renovates Map United Counties of SDG

Ontario Renovates - The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry



Legend

- | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| ● 2012 (19 households) | Highway | Main Settlement |
| ● 2013 (50 households) | County Road | Township Boundary |
| ● 2014 (27 households) | Municipal Road | Cornwall Boundary |
| ● 2014 - Extension (19 households) | Railroad | |

Produced by:
 The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas &
 Glengarry Transportation & Planning Services
 under license with Data supplied under
 Licence by Members of the Ontario
 Geospatial Data Exchange
 © January 2017.