



**Subject: MOU between Port Colborne and Niagara Regional Housing**

**To: Council**

**From: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

Report Number: 2022-219

Meeting Date: October 11, 2022

---

### **Recommendation:**

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2022-219 be received;

That Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Port Colborne and Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) for an Affordable Housing Development; and

That a by-law to enter into an MOU with NRH be brought forward, and;

That Council authorize the Mayor and Acting City Clerk to execute the MOU and by-law.

---

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a draft overview of the MOU between the City of Port Colborne and Niagara Regional Housing regarding a proposed affordable housing project. A copy of the MOU is attached to this report.

---

### **Background:**

City Council identified affordable housing as a priority in the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan and directed staff to explore supportive policies and incentives, innovative approaches, and strategic partnerships to address affordable housing shortages and wait lists in the community. At their September 13, 2022 meeting, Council approved an Affordable Housing Strategy and Action Plan completed by Tim Welch Consulting. At the same meeting, Council approved a motion to support an affordable housing partnership with Niagara Regional Housing regarding the redevelopment of a surplus City property on

Haney Street adjacent to a property owned by NRH. Council also directed staff to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding.

At their September 30, 2022, meeting, the NRH Board of Directors approved a motion supporting the project and partnership with the City of Port Colborne.

---

### **Discussion:**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides a non-binding framework for both parties and clarity on key project components, responsibilities, and timelines. The MOU also provides information and transparency for the project itself and the partnership between the City of Port Colborne and Niagara Regional Housing.

---

### **Internal Consultations:**

The MOU has been reviewed by the City Solicitor, CAO, Planning Services, Economic Development and Tourism Services, and Public Works.

---

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications by approving this report.

---

### **Public Engagement:**

City residents and key community stakeholders have shown their interest in affordable housing issues by participating in public opinion surveys and open houses. Most recently, the Affordable Housing Strategy and Action Plan included extensive public and stakeholder engagement. More specifically:

- a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of not-for-profit organizations, social service agencies, local developers, business stakeholder groups, and City staff met four times to review housing research and data, stakeholder feedback, and provide comments on draft recommendations;
  - 24 interviews were conducted with key opinion leaders, elected officials, housing providers, not-for-profit organizations; and developers;
  - an online public opinion survey was created and there were 147 responses;
  - an open house held on July 5<sup>th</sup> included 30 attendees;
  - a dedicated project page for the Affordable Housing Strategy and Action Plan was set up on the City's website to provide information and updates.
-

## Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
  - Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
- 

## Conclusion:

The City of Port Colborne and Niagara Regional Housing have formed a partnership to create more affordable housing units. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and NRH has been developed to foster mutual understanding, a collaborative approach, and help guide next steps for the affordable housing project proposed by NRH.

While the MOU is non-binding, it demonstrates the commitment and intentions of both parties in working together to create more affordable housing units in Port Colborne.

---

## Appendices:

- a) Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Port Colborne and Niagara Regional Housing

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Long  
Manager of Strategic Initiatives  
905-835-2900 x.502  
[Gary.Long@portcolborne.ca](mailto:Gary.Long@portcolborne.ca)

Denise Landry  
Manager of Planning Services  
905-835-2900 x.  
[Denise.Landry@portcolborne.ca](mailto:Denise.Landry@portcolborne.ca)

## Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.