



## Executive Council Office

One Government Place, PO Box 2125, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 3B7 • Telephone 902-424-8940 • [Executive.Council@novascotia.ca](mailto:Executive.Council@novascotia.ca)

March 25, 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Re: You are entitled to part of the records – 2021-00102-EXE**

Your application for access under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPOP), was received on January 25, 2021. In your application you requested:

*Please provide documentation on any analysis that looks at the social costs of COVID 19 and the consequences from government lockdown measures limited to changes to suicide rates, non-COVID health care system consequences, depression, alcoholism, substance abuse and business bankruptcies. The time frame for this request is March 1, 2020 to December 15, 2020.*

You are entitled to part of the records requested. However, we have removed some of the information from this record according to subsection 5(2) of the Act. The severed information is exempt from disclosure under the Act for the following reasons:

- Section 13(1): information the disclosure of which would reveal deliberations of Executive Council.
- Section 14(1): advice by or for a public body or minister.

You have the right to ask for a review of this decision by the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner (formerly the Review Officer). You have 60 days from the date of this letter to exercise this right. If you wish to ask for a review, you may do so on Form 7, a copy of which is attached. Send the completed form to the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner, P.O. Box 181, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4.

Please be advised that a de-identified copy of this disclosure letter and the attached response to your FOIPOP application will be made public after 14 days. The package will be posted online at <https://informationaccess.novascotia.ca>. The letter will not include your name, address or any other personal information that you have supplied while making your application under FOIPOP.

[REDACTED]  
March 25, 2021

Page Two

Please contact Arilea Sill at 902-424-3787 or by e-mail at [Arilea.Sill@novascotia.ca](mailto:Arilea.Sill@novascotia.ca), if you need further assistance in regards to this application.

Sincerely,



Laura Lee Langley  
Clerk of the Executive Council

Attachments

Report and Recommendation  
to the Executive Council



Number: 13(1)

Dept.: BUS/FTB

Date: May 27, 2020

Title:Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECRA)

Submitted By:Honourable Karen Casey, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board (FTB)  
Honourable Geoff MacLellan, Minister of Business

Prepared By:Mike Queripel, Director, Department of Business (DOB)

Reviewed By:Rebecca Doucett, A/Executive Director, FTB  
Geoff Gatien, Associate Deputy Minister and Controller, FTB

Deputy Minister:Byron Rafuse, Deputy Minister, Department of Finance and Treasury Board  
Bernie Miller, Deputy Minister, Department of Business

Approvals13(1)

14(1)

Attorney General

Approved as to Form and Authority

Registrar of Regulations

Approved as to Form

Clerk of the Executive Council

Date Rec'd.

Treasury and Policy Board

Date Rec'd.

Summary:

Executive Council

Approved

Withdrawn

Referred to

Date

Legal Authority:

The undersigned has the honour to refer to section 6 of Chapter 376 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1989, the Public Service Act, which provides as follows:

6. A member of the Executive Council may, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada, the government of a province, the government of a foreign state or subnational unit or an association of foreign states or subnational units, or agency thereof, or with any institution or person, or any of them, providing for a joint undertaking with the Government of Canada, with the government of a province, with the government of a foreign state or subnational unit or with an association of foreign states or subnational units, or any agency thereof, or with any institution or person, or any of them, of any project within the member's mandate under this Act.

The undersigned has the further honour to refer to Paragraphs 33(2)(a), (b) and (f) of Chapter 376 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1989, the Public Service Act, which provides as follows:

- (2) In addition to any functions assigned to the Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism by an enactment or the Governor in Council, and unless the Governor in Council otherwise directs, the functions of the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism are to
- (a) develop, co-ordinate and implement policies, planning and programming relating to economic and rural development and the economic growth strategy;

(b) co-ordinate and implement special projects with communities in economic transition;

(f) co-operate with and support the work and efforts of other departments and the Government of Canada and its departments respecting matters relating to economic and rural development in the Province;

The undersigned has the further honour to refer to Order in Council 2015-116, dated April 9, 2015, which provides as follows:

- The Governor in Council on the report and recommendation of the President of the Executive Council dated April 8, 2015, and pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 of Chapter 376 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1989, the Public Service Act, and all other authority in him vested, is pleased to, effective April 9, 2015:
- (a) create the Department of Business which shall be presided over by the Minister of Business who shall have the supervision, direction and control of all matters relating to creating the climate for private sector economic growth, leading and aligning all government efforts to effectively and efficiently expand business and social enterprise growth in Nova Scotia, providing strategic direction and leadership to all departments, crown corporations and agencies to achieve alignment on strategy and operations for business and social enterprise growth, and modernizing regulatory frameworks to promote responsible, sustainable economic growth;

(j) direct that a reference in any Act of the Legislature or in any rule, order, regulation, bylaw, ordinance or proceeding, or in any document whatsoever, to the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, or to the Minister or Deputy Minister or Associate Deputy Minister of that Department which has not been assigned to another department or office by this Order, whether the reference is by official name or otherwise, shall with respect to any subsequent transaction, matter or thing be held and construed to be a reference to the Department of Business or the Minister of Business, as the case may be.

CURRENT SITUATION AND PURPOSE FOR THIS REQUEST

13(1) 14(1)

Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments have announced various measures to help support variable and fixed expenses of small businesses faced by revenue declines and disruptions as a result of COVID-19. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Province recognized the difficulty tenants and landlords would face due to health orders. To assist tenants and landlords in reaching mutually satisfactory agreements for deferral of rent between April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020, the province launched the COVID-19 Rent Deferral Support Program on March 27, 2020. This program provides a 100% guarantee in favour of landlords on rent deferred for the months of April to June. Eligible tenants included businesses that had been directly impacted by Health Protection Act Order(s). Approximately 380 landlords representing 1,110 tenants have agreed to deferrals of rent totalling \$10,700,000 under this program. This program is administered by Dalhousie University under its \$50,000,000 agreement with the Province to fund and administer COVID-19 related programs (OIC 2020-112). Dalhousie has budgeted \$5,000,000 for guarantee claims.

On April 24, 2020, the Government of Canada announced the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) Program (the “Program”). The purpose of the Program is to support small commercial tenants experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 and to support commercial property owners in providing rent reductions to their impacted tenants, in light of the impact of COVID 19. The Program will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners who agree to reduce the small business tenants’ rent by at least 75% under a rent forgiveness agreement. The Program will provide up front assistance to landlords and permanent rent forgiveness for tenants.

Commercial property owners can receive the benefit only for property leased to a qualified tenant. Qualified tenants include for-profit, not-for-profit, or charitable entities, including individuals, who pay no more than \$50,000 in monthly gross rent payments (as defined by a valid and enforceable lease agreement), and generate no more than \$20 million (M) in gross annual revenues, calculated on a consolidated basis. The tenant must also have experienced a 70% decline in pre-COVID-19 revenues.

The Government of Canada (GOC) estimates the total cost to government for the forgivable loan portion of the CECRA Program to be approximately \$2.3 billion, which will be shared 75/25 with each province and territory. Cost estimates were informed by information on commercial and residential rents provided by Statistics Canada, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.


BACKGROUND

13(1) 14(1)

In a survey of members conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business released on May19, 2020, 48% of businesses say they will not be able to pay their June rent in full without additional assistance. One in five businesses fear that they will be evicted or locked out over unpaid rent. Close to two in three businesses agree that governments have been too slow with rent assistance.

The program will be administered through CMHC. CMHC will provide a forgivable loan to the eligible property owner equal to 50% of the monthly rent payments from the impacted tenant, calculated for the period of April, May and June 2020. The property owner will be responsible for no less than half of the remaining 50% of the monthly rent payments (paying no less than 25% of monthly rent) and the tenant will remain responsible for no more than half of the remaining 50% of the monthly rent payments (paying no more than 25% of the monthly rent).

CMHC will provide a loan to the eligible property owner equal to 50% of the monthly rent payments from the impacted small commercial tenants for the period of April to June 2020. The program administrator will advance the amount of the loan directly to the property owner’s mortgage lender/financial institution, to be applied in accordance with the terms of the forgivable loan agreement. If the property owner complies with the applicable terms and conditions, the loan will be 100% forgivable. In the event of non-compliance with the applicable terms and conditions, the amounts outstanding will become immediately repayable. The forgivable loan agreement will include events of default, including:

- failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the program, including the forgivable loan agreement.
- any misrepresentation in an attestation.
- non-compliance with the rent reduction agreement.

In case of default, all necessary measures to recover outstanding amounts will be undertaken, including collection actions. Collection actions may include assigning the loan to the Canada Revenue Agency.

Landlords who have applied for the COVID-19 Rent Deferral Support Program may also apply for the CECRA Program. Where a landlord applies to both programs, indemnity payments to the landlord made under the provincial program (if any) will be reduced by the amount of the CECRA benefit received (75%) on a per tenant basis.

KEY ISSUE 13(1) 14(1)

--

JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW

The Government of Canada recently announced a number of programs to support Canadian businesses facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that all provinces and territories will be participating in the CECRA.

ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES / RISK ASSESSMENT / MITIGATION 13(1) 14(1)

Option 1: <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>				
Risk	Probability (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation

Option 2: <div></div> <div></div>				
Risk	Probability (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation

PROPOSED ACTION AND TIMING

FINANCIAL IMPACT

1. Does this submission require either of the following approvals under the *Finance Act*?  
  

Section 77 requires a report from the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board before entering into a net debt obligation (formerly 59C of the *Provincial Finance Act*)

Section 78 requires Treasury and Policy Board approval before undertaking an operating obligation.
2. Is this an In-Year Funding request (is there a current year impact which cannot be absorbed in the existing appropriation)?

3. Briefly describe the financial request by completing the following table:

Initiative	Fiscal Year 2020-21	Fiscal Year 2021-22+
------------	---------------------	----------------------

4. Is new operating funding required?

Additional operating funding required	Fiscal Year 20-21	Fiscal Year 21-22
---------------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------

5. Is new capital funding required?

Additional capital funding required	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
-------------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

6. Is there third party funding associated with this request?

7. Will this proposal impact a Revenue stream of the Province?

8. Are additional FTEs required?

9. Provide any further comments on the financial impact that have not been covered above.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Is there a technology component to this request?

GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

CONSULTATION

Is Aboriginal consultation required?

Indicate what consultations, if any, that were undertaken with

If yes to either of the above, has the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs been consulted?

EFFICIENCY/PRODUCTIVITY

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

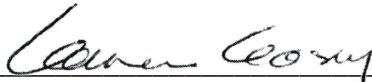
POLICY LENSES



RECOMMENDATION

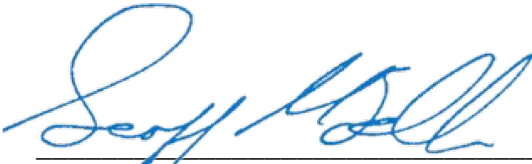
FORM OF ORDER

Respectfully submitted,



---

The Honourable Karen Casey  
Minister of Finance and Treasury Board



---

The Honourable Geoff MacLellan  
Minister of Business

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
May 27, 2020

Pages 8 - 15 withheld, sections 13(1), 14(1)

**Plan Title:** Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECERA)  
**Department:** Department of Business/Finance and Treasury Board  
**Accompanying:** ☐ R&R  
**Date:** May 26, 2020  
**Prepared by:** Michelle Stevens, Finance, and Tracy Barron, Business

**COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW**

**Background:** On April 24, 2020, the Government of Canada announced the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) Program.

[Redacted]

13(1)  
14(1)

**Key Messages:**

[Redacted]

**COMMUNICATIONS ANALYSIS**

**Communications Context & Research:** Nova Scotia launched the COVID-19 Rent Deferral Support Program in March, which provides a 100 per cent guarantee for landlords on rent deferred for the months of April, May and June. Eligible tenants include businesses directly impacted by Health Protection Act Orders (about 380 landlords representing 1,110 tenants) with deferrals of rent totaling \$10,700,000. Landlords who have applied for the COVID-19 Rent Deferral Support Program will be able to apply for this program.

In a survey of members conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business released in May, 48 per cent of businesses say they will not be able to pay their June rent in full without additional assistance. One in five businesses fear that they will be evicted or locked out over unpaid rent. Close to two in three businesses agree that governments have been too slow with rent assistance.

All provinces are expected to participate in the program.

**Key Partners & Stakeholders:**

13(1) 14(1)

Stakeholder	Expected Position	Issues/Considerations
-------------	-------------------	-----------------------

[Redacted]		
------------	--	--

[Redacted]

Additional Issues:

[Redacted]

STRATEGY & ROLL-OUT

Opportunity/objective(s):

[Redacted]

Strategy:


[Redacted]


Timing	Proposed Comms / Marketing Actions	Responsibility
[Redacted]		


Evaluation:


[Redacted]

Approved by Director:  
Approved by Managing Director:

By 

Approved by Deputy:  May 27, 2020

Approved by Minister:  May 27, 2020

 May 27, 2020



**Executive  
Council**

*A certified copy of an Order in Council dated  
May 28, 2020*

2020-160

The Governor in Council on the report and recommendation of the Minister of Business and the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board dated May 27, 2020 and pursuant to Section 6 of Chapter 376 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1989, the *Public Service Act*, approve the Province as represented by the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board or the Minister of Business, to enter into a bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada to make assistance available to Nova Scotia small businesses through the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program on such terms and conditions as substantially set out in Schedule “A” and authorize the Province’s portion of cost sharing for the Program in the maximum amount of \$9,100,000.

**Certified to be a true copy**

  
.....  
**Laura Lee Langley**  
Clerk of the Executive Council

Memorandum  
to the Executive Council

13(1)



Number: [REDACTED]

Dept.: MAH

Date: June 3, 2020

**Title:** Emergency Homeless Shelter Funding Request

**Submitted By:** Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Prepared By:** Grant MacEachern, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Reviewed By:** Darlene O'Neill, Executive Director, Financial Advisory Services, Finance and Treasury Board *Don*  
Shannon Bennett, Executive Director, Corporate Policy and Innovation, *SB*  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Deputy Minister:** Nancy MacLellan, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing *NLM*

SUMMARY:

[REDACTED]

CURRENT SITUATION AND PURPOSE FOR THIS REQUEST

13(1) 14(1)

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Government approved \$336,000 in funding to DMAH for the opening and operating of three pop up emergency shelters in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). This funding, which has been fully committed, has made it possible to allow for social distancing in emergency homeless shelters and has been used to operate the Needham Community Pop Up (Needham), YMCA Gottingen (YMCA), and the Citadel Community Centre (Citadel).

In May, DMAH was able to close both the Needham and YMCA pop up shelters by finding alternative shelters for their clients. The remaining pop up shelter is located at Citadel Community Centre and has a capacity to serve 32 men per night while following social distancing measures. While the Citadel facility rental is covered by in-kind contribution by HRM, DMAH is responsible for the operational costs including cleaning, security and food.

Previously, staffing for the pop-up shelter was funded through Reaching Home’s COVID19 response and administered through the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia (AHANS). These funds are now being redirected toward the hotel model at the Marriott Halifax, Lord Nelson Halifax and Atlantica to provide for social distancing for shelters. Reaching Home is supporting the hotel model, as it was agreed upon with support of Public Health that this model was safer than congregate living in pop up shelters.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Public Health, through the Department of Environment is currently undertaking inspections of shelter spaces to ensure safe social distancing and hygiene practices. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## BACKGROUND

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nova Scotians have been advised to social-distance and monitor themselves for any symptoms related to COVID-19. This has proven to be an impossible practice at emergency homeless shelters in Halifax which were operating at over 100% capacity when the state of emergency was announced. While some shelters have physical spaces that allow for social- distancing, some are dormitory style, with bunks or cots, creating a greater challenge. In addition to spacing issues individuals experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of infection due to lifestyle, vulnerabilities and existence of underlying conditions. It was recommended by Public Health that shelters reduce their bed occupancies by 50% in order to best manage hygiene and social distancing needs. Lower bed counts in emergency shelters meant that there weren't enough beds to meet demand, requiring DMAH to find alternative space for these clients in Halifax.

In order to allow for social distancing in emergency shelters the province began operating three pop up shelters on March 22<sup>nd</sup> with the opening of Needham, March 25<sup>th</sup> for the Citadel and March 28<sup>th</sup> for YMCA Gottingen. Both the Citadel and Needham shelters were operating at capacity for the most part. DMAH ended operations at YMCA shortly thereafter as other arrangements became available for women withing existing organizations.

On April 23rd, the first positive COVID-19 case in the homeless population was reported at the Citadel pop up shelter location. As a result, all clients were relocated to the Lord Nelson Hotel to allow for social isolation since all guests of the shelter were in close contact and needed to be separated to avoid a larger outbreak of the virus. The hotel rooms at the Lord Nelson were funded through public health for the two-week isolation period, and since that time, Reaching Home has assumed the costs and the guests have remained there to date. Where permanent shelters are operating at 50% occupancy, it was determined by the Community Advisory Board for Reaching Home that to maintain social distancing, Reaching Home would continue to pay for clients to remain in hotel.

After the space at the Citadel shelter became available due to its clients moving to hotels, it was decided it would be beneficial to move clients utilizing the Needham space to the Citadel space as it was more spacious and allowed for more comfortable social distancing practices. As a result, the Needham space is no longer being used, making Citadel the last of the three pop up shelters remaining operational.

Public health has determined that permanent shelters cannot operate in the same manner as prior to the pandemic. They are undertaking inspections through the Department of Environment to advise agencies of social distancing practices. It is anticipated that there will be a decrease in numbers of available beds as a result.



KEY ISSUE

JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW

**British Columbia** has opened up 900+ spaces over 23 sites for people experiencing homelessness, people without safe spaces to isolate and youth. These spaces include hotels, motels, community centers and more. Health authorities are identifying those who require self-isolation and working with BC Housing to refer people to hotel rooms or community centres.

In **Alberta**, the Edmonton Expo Centre as been opened as a day drop-in service open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. This space is large and open allowing for social distancing and is open to any person who is homeless and currently using shelters. Lethbridge has opened a temporary homeless shelter in a local gymnasium which provides individuals with space needed to follow social distancing guidelines. The city of Calgary has partnered with the Provincial Government to provide hotel and motel rooms for the homeless.

In **Manitoba** the provincial government is seeking hotels and modular housing to isolate Manitobans during the COVID-19 pandemic through a request for proposals.

**Ontario** announced \$200 million in social services relief funding, which can be used by municipalities and social service providers, including homeless shelters, food banks, emergency services, charities and non-profits, to support delivery of critical services, whether that means hiring additional staff, acquiring personal protective equipment or finding ways to promote social distancing and self-isolation.

ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES / RISK ASSESSMENT/MITIGATION

Option 1 <div></div> <div></div>				
Risk	Probability (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation

Option 2: .

Risk	Probability (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation
------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	------------

PROPOSED ACTION AND TIMING

FINANCIAL IMPACT

1. Does this submission require either of the following approvals under the *Finance Act*?

Section 77 requires a report from the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board before entering into a net debt obligation (formerly 59C of the *Provincial Finance Act*)

Section 78 requires Treasury and Policy Board approval before undertaking an operating obligation.

2. Is this an In-Year Funding request (is there a current year impact which cannot be absorbed in the existing appropriation)?

3. Briefly describe the financial request by completing the following table:

Initiative	Fiscal Year 2020-21	Fiscal Year 2021-22	Fiscal Year 2022-23
------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------

4. Is new operating funding required?

Additional operating funding required	Fiscal Year 2020-21	Fiscal Year 2021-22	Fiscal Year 2022-23
---------------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------

5. Is new capital funding required?

Additional capital funding required	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
-------------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

13(1)

14(1)

6. Is there third-party funding associated with this request?

7. Will this proposal impact a Revenue stream of the Province?

8. Are additional FTEs required?

9. Provide any further comments on the financial impact that have not been covered above.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Is there a technology component to this request?

GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

CONSULTATION

Is Aboriginal consultation required?

Indicate what consultations, if any, that were undertaken with

If yes to either of the above, has the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs been consulted?

EFFICIENCY/PRODUCTIVITY

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS


POLICY LENSES



RECOMMENDATION



Respectfully submitted,



Chuck Porter  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Date June 3, 2020

**Plan Title:** Emergency Homeless Shelter Funding Request  
**Department:** Municipal Affairs and Housing  
**Accompanying:** ☐R&R ☐RFL ☒ MEC ☐Other \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** June 2, 2020 (revised March 25, 2020)  
**Prepared by:** Krista Higdon, Communications Advisor, 902-220-6619

☐ Following a review of the submission to Executive Council and consideration for potential issues and opportunities, a communications plan is not required.

COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

**Background:**  
On March 22nd, Government approved \$336,000 in funding to DMAH to open and operate three temporary emergency shelters in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). This funding, which has been fully committed, has made it possible to allow for social distancing in existing emergency homeless shelters.

In May, the Department was able to close both the Needham and YMCA temporary shelters by finding alternative shelters for the clients. The remaining temporary shelter is located at Citadel Community Centre with a capacity to serve 32 men per night. While the Citadel facility rental is provided as an in-kind contribution by HRM, DMAH is responsible for the operational costs including cleaning, security and food.

13(1)

14(1)

Key Messages:

COMMUNICATIONS ANALYSIS

Key Partners & Stakeholders:

Stakeholder	Expected Position	Issues/Considerations
-------------	-------------------	-----------------------

Additional Issues:

STRATEGY & ROLL-OUT

Strategy: .

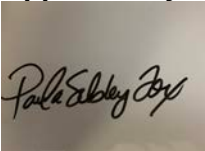
Timing	Proposed Comms / Marketing Actions	Responsibility
--------	------------------------------------	----------------

Evaluation:

Approved by Director:



Approved by Managing Director:



Approved by Deputy:



Approved by Minister:



**13(1)**    **14(1)**





Memorandum  
to the Executive Council

13(1) 14(1)



Number:  13(1)

Dept.: DCS

Date: 10/26/2020

Title: Safe Restart Agreement: Joint department request

Submitted By: Honourable Kelly Regan, Minister of Community Services *K Regan*

Prepared By: Cathy MacIsaac, Executive Director, Policy and Innovation *AM*

Reviewed By: S. Dale MacLennan, CPA, CA, Executive Director, Finance and Administration *SDM Oct 19/20*  
Tracey Barbrick, Associate Deputy Minister *TB*

Deputy Minister: Tracey Tawee *T Tawee Oct. 19/20*

SUMMARY:

CURRENT SITUATION AND PURPOSE FOR THIS REQUEST

On July 16, 2020, the Federal Government and the Council of the Federation jointly announced the Safe Restart Agreement (SRA) to help response to Canada’s experience with COVID-19. The Agreement provides \$19 billion in federal funding to support the efforts of provinces/territories to safely restart their economies over the next six to eight months and to help equip them, longer term, to address challenges pertaining to possible future waves of COVID-19. Funding from the SRA must be spent by the end of 2020/21. Jurisdictions are also required to report on the use of the funds to ensure they support the agreed elements of the SRA.

**BACKGROUND**

**Safe Restart Agreement Funding for Nova Scotia**

The Federal Government will provide Nova Scotia with approximately \$289.5 million in funding from the SRA. This money will be invested in initiatives to support the following six key priority areas of the Agreement

- Support for vulnerable Canadians who are at risk of more severe cases of COVID-19. These individuals include those in long-term care, home care, and palliative care, as well as those with other vulnerabilities.
- Enhanced capacity for testing, contact tracing, and data management and information sharing to mitigate future outbreaks.
- Investments in health care to respond to the pandemic, including support for Canadians experiencing challenges with substance use, mental health, or homelessness.
- Funding to secure a reliable source of personal protective equipment, and to recover some of the costs from previous investments made by provincial and territorial governments
- Support to ensure that safe and sufficient childcare spaces are available to support parents’ gradual return to work.
- Joint funding with the provinces and territories to support municipalities on the front lines of restarting the economy, including by putting in place precautions for public spaces and essential services to reduce the spread of the virus, as well as a dedicated stream of funding for public transit.

A seventh priority area, Pan-Canadian COVID related paid sick leave, will be fully funded and administered by the federal government.



**KEY ISSUES**

**13(1)      14(1)**



**JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW**

Through the SRA, the Federal Government is providing funding to provinces/territories to support them in restarting their economies over the next six to eight months. Provincial/ territorial government departments are responsible for working within their local governments to obtain approval on how the funding will be spent in their jurisdictions to support each of the six key priority areas of the SRA.

ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES / RISK ASSESSMENT/MITIGATION

Option 1				
Risk	Probability (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation

PROPOSED ACTION AND TIMING

--

FINANCIAL IMPACT

1. Does this submission require either of the following approvals under the *Finance Act*?  
  
Section 77 requires a report from the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board before entering into a net debt obligation (formerly 59C of the *Provincial Finance Act*)

--

Section 78 requires Treasury and Policy Board approval before undertaking an operating obligation.

--

2. Is this an In-Year Funding request (is there a current year impact which cannot be absorbed in the existing appropriation)?

3. Briefly describe the financial request by completing the following table:

Initiative by Department*	2020-2021	2021-2022
---------------------------	-----------	-----------

4. Is new operating funding required?

5. Is new capital funding required?

6. Is there third party funding associated with this request?

7. Will this proposal impact a Revenue stream of the Province?

8. Are additional FTEs required?

9. Provide any further comments on the financial impact that have not been covered above.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Is there a technology component to this request?

GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

CONSULTATION

Is Aboriginal consultation required?

Indicate what consultations, if any, that were undertaken with

If yes to either of the above, has the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs been consulted?

EFFICIENCY/PRODUCTIVITY

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

POLICY LENSES

RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Kelly Regan  
Minister of Community Services

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Date Oct. 20, 2020

Pages 36 - 52 withheld, Sections 13(1), 14(1)

Communications Plan

Plan Title: Safe Restart Agreement – [redacted]

13(1)

**Department:** Community Services, Health and Wellness, Justice, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Seniors  
**Accompanying:** MEC  
**Date:** September 29, 2020  
**Prepared by:** Lynette MacLeod, Communications Advisor, 902-229-0785

☐ Following a review of the submission to Executive Council and consideration for potential issues and opportunities, a communications plan is not required.

COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

**Background:** In July, the federal government announced a \$19-billion Safe Restart Agreement (SRA) to address immediate public health and economic needs over the next six to eight months and to be ready for potential future waves of COVID-19. Each province and territory is being allocated a portion and will determine how the funding will be used for their COVID-19 response. Nova Scotia is receiving approx. \$289 million and funding must be used by the end of 2020/21.

Provincial/ territorial government departments are responsible for working within their local governments to obtain approval on how the funding will be spent. Funding must be invested across the Agreement’s seven key priority areas. One of those key priority areas is to support vulnerable people including those in long-term care, home care, and palliative care, and who are at risk of more severe cases of COVID-19.

13(1)

[redacted]

14(1)

Key Messages

[redacted]

COMMUNICATIONS ANALYSIS

**Communications Context & Research:** The Federal Government announced next steps for the Safe Restart Agreement on Sept. 16, 2020. The announcement included making all letters submitted by Premiers public. Nova Scotia’s letter outlines how much funding will be allocated under each priority area and the projects the money is intended for. Nova Scotia also issued a news release the same day. [redacted]

The Federal Government has acknowledged that vulnerable Canadians include those in long-term care, home care, and palliative care as they are at an increased risk of severely experiencing the effects of COVID-19. There has also been considerable news coverage related to the lack of single occupancy rooms, especially in the context of long-term care homes that experienced outbreaks. [redacted]





**Key Partners & Stakeholders:**

Stakeholder	Expected Position	Issues/Considerations
-------------	-------------------	-----------------------



**Additional Issues:**



**STRATEGY & ROLL-OUT**

**Opportunity/objective(s):**

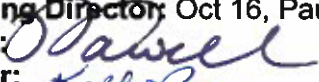



Timing	Proposed Comms / Marketing Actions	Responsibility
--------	------------------------------------	----------------



**Evaluation:**



Approved by Director: oct 16 (DHW, DCS, DMAH, DOJ, Seniors)  
Approved by Managing Director: Oct 16, Paula Sibley-Fox  
Approved by Deputy:   
Approved by Minister: 

**From:** [Taweel, Tracey](#)  
**To:** [MacKenzie, Dana](#)  
**Cc:** [Orrell, Kevin](#); [Montgomerie, Duff](#); [MacLellan, Nancy](#); [Thomas, Candace](#); [Berliner, Catherine A](#)  
**Subject:** Safe Restart memo  
**Date:** October 26, 2020 2:08:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [Signed MEC - Safe Restart Agreement \(FINAL Oct22\).pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Dana,

Please find attached the Safe Restart Agreement MEC—I am submitting on behalf of my colleagues in LAE, DHW, DOJ, Seniors and DMAH [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**13(1)**

Thank you very much.

Tracey

Tracey Taweel  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Community Services  
Province of Nova Scotia  
902-424-4325  
[novascotia.ca](http://novascotia.ca)

13(1)

14(1)

**Executive Council Office**

---

One Government Place, PO Box 2125, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 3B7 • Telephone 902-424-8940 • [Executive.Council@novascotia.ca](mailto:Executive.Council@novascotia.ca)

---

Memorandum  
to the Executive Council



Number:  13(1)

Dept.: MAH

Date: November 9, 2020

Title:Short Term Options to Address 24/7 Emergency Shelter Bed Reduction Due to COVID-19

Submitted By:Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Prepared By:Jenny Benson Pratt, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Reviewed By:Christine Gibbons, Executive Director, Corporate Policy & Innovation  
Brandon Grant, Executive Director, Homelessness  
Darlene O'Neill, Executive Director, Financial Advisory Services, Finance and Treasury Board

Deputy Minister: Catherine Berliner, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

SUMMARY:

CURRENT SITUATION AND PURPOSE FOR THIS REQUEST

13(1) 14(1)

Homeless shelters in HRM have reduced the number of emergency shelter beds available for individuals experiencing homelessness to allow for physical distancing and create a safe environment in the context of COVID-19.

BACKGROUND

DMAH is responsible for connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with safe housing. DMAH staff and community housing partners worked with Public Health during COVID Wave 1 to ensure that safe housing was provided to our homeless population within public health guidelines. As a result of COVID Wave 1, Public Health (with the support of the Department of Environment) undertook inspections in all shelters to ensure that safe social distancing was possible. In some shelters, located in HRM, the results of these inspections meant that beds were lost to create a safe environment. A total of 47 beds (2 for women, 45 for men) were lost from the Halifax Homelessness Shelter system.

In the 2020-21 budget, the Province made the single largest investment in homelessness, investing in housing support and front-line resources to assist individuals in accessing and maintaining housing.

On September 20, 2020, the Federal Government announced a \$1 billion rapid housing capital funding program. This funding will be made available to provinces, territories, municipalities, not for profits, Indigenous governing bodies and organizations on an application basis managed through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The intention of the funding is to create 3000 affordable units across through acquisition or development of modular units to address homelessness.

KEY ISSUES

JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW

Jurisdictions across Canada have been working to safely house individuals who are homeless without increasing the risk of COVID-19 infections. This jurisdictional review is focused on safely housing homeless individuals who are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Work has been done here and in other jurisdictions around options for housing individuals who are suspected of having or who have tested positive for COVID-19. This request is based on creating safe shelter spaces for those who are uninfected.

Across Canada, jurisdictions are seeing an increase in homelessness and an increased need for sheltering.

British Columbia

In April, British Columbia created 900 new spaces and secured 23 sites for individuals experiencing homelessness, people without safe spaces to self-isolate and youth. These spaces include hotels, motels and community centres. Non-profit societies oversee the day-to-day management of these spaces. Staff provide daily means and cleaning services. When required, healthcare workers can also provide on-site care to ensure that individuals are getting the medical attention they need. Referrals to these spaces are managed by BC Housing, other community housing organizations and health authorities.

Edmonton, Alberta

In order to ensure the health and safety of Edmontonians experiencing homelessness, the Edmonton Expo Centre was opened in March. It provides a day drop-in service 7 days a week from 8AM to 8AM that operates in a large space to allow for social distancing. This service is available for any person who is homeless and currently using shelters and not exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.

Lethbridge, Alberta

In April, The City of Lethbridge created a temporary homeless shelter in the Fritz Sick gymnasium which provides more square footage than current homeless shelters which allow for the space needed to follow Alberta Health’s recommended social distancing guidelines.

Ontario

Ontario announced \$200M in social services relief funding which can be used by municipalities on social service providers including homeless shelters. Northumberland County used their portion of funds to set up a shelter with 30 beds that includes staffing, food, security and sanitization services.

Toronto, Ontario

In April, Toronto opened nine new shelters for homeless people with more than 350 spaces to help improve social distancing. This was not to create additional capacity but for more physical distancing for clients from shelters, 24-hour respites and 24-hour drop-ins.

ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES / RISK ASSESSMENT/MITIGATION 13(1) 14(1)

Option #1				
T				
T				

Risk	Probability (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation
------	---------------------	----------------	--------------------	------------



Option #2: [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Risk	Probability (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation
------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	------------

[Redacted]

Option #3: [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Risk	Probability (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation
------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	------------

[Redacted]

PROPOSED ACTION AND TIMING

[Redacted]

FINANCIAL IMPACT

1. Does this submission require either of the following approvals under the *Finance Act*?

Section 77 requires a report from the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board before entering into a net debt obligation (formerly 59C of the *Provincial Finance Act*)

[Redacted]

Section 78 requires Treasury and Policy Board approval before undertaking an operating obligation.

[Redacted]

2. Is this an In-Year Funding request (is there a current year impact which cannot be absorbed in the existing appropriation)?

3. Briefly describe the financial request by completing the following table:

Initiative	Fiscal Year 2020-2021	Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Fiscal Year 2022-2023
------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

4. Is new operating funding required?

Additional operating funding required	Fiscal Year 2020-2021	Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Fiscal Year 2022-2023
---------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

5. Is new capital funding required?

6. Is there third party funding associated with this request?

7. Will this proposal impact a Revenue stream of the Province?

8. Are additional FTEs required?



9. Provide any further comments on the financial impact that have not been covered above.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Is there a technology component to this request?

GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLICATIONS

CONSULTATION

Is Aboriginal consultation required?

Indicate what consultations, if any, that were undertaken with

If yes to either of the above, has the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs been consulted?

EFFICIENCY/PRODUCTIVITY

n/a

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

n/a

POLICY LENSES

13(1)

14(1)

RECOMMENDATION



Respectfully submitted,

Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Date    November 3, 2020

Communications Plan

Advice to Executive Council

Plan Title: Short Term Options to Address Emergency Shelter Bed Reduction  
Department: Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Accompanying: ☐ R&R ☐ RFL XMEC ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: October 08, 2020  
Prepared by: Toby Koffman, Communications Director, 902-483-5847

☐ Following a review of the submission to Executive Council and consideration for potential issues and opportunities, a communications plan is not required.

COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

Background:

13(1)  
14(1)

A total of 47 beds were lost from the Halifax Homelessness Shelter system during COVID-19 because of the need to reconfigure shelters to meet public health direction, including the need to physical distance.

Homelessness and affordable housing have received increased public, media and political attention in recent years. Low vacancy rates and rising rent prices have led to more media stories about people and families having difficulty finding adequate accommodations. The pandemic has only added to the elevated level of attention on these topics. As bed numbers have dropped, Halifax shelters have reported receiving more calls from people seeing more homeless people on the streets.

Key Messages:

COMMUNICATIONS ANALYSIS

Communications Context & Research:

Media coverage of homelessness and affordable housing issues has increased since the onset of the pandemic.

Without resources, Nova Scotia's homeless are more at risk for COVID-19  
(CBC – April 2, 2020)  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-s-homeless-are-more-at-risk-for-covid-19-1.5520017>

Articles tend to centre on the situation worsening, and a distinction between homelessness and a lack of affordable housing is generally not made:

**'There's no affordable housing' advocates say as needs of homeless grow during pandemic**  
(CTV News – September 14, 2020)  
<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/there-s-no-affordable-housing-advocates-say-as-needs-of-homeless-grow-during-pandemic-1.5104965>

The issues of homelessness and affordable housing have also become significant topics in several municipal election campaigns:

**Affordable housing advocates call on HRM to create social housing strategy**  
(Global News – October 7, 2020)  
<https://globalnews.ca/news/7384053/affordable-housing-strategy-needed/>

13(1)

14(1)

**Key Partners & Stakeholders:**

Stakeholder	Expected Position	Issues/Considerations

**Additional Issues:**

--

**STRATEGY & ROLL-OUT**

**Opportunity/objective(s):**

--

**Strategy:**

--

Roll-out:

Evaluation:

Approved by Director: Toby Koffman, 902-483-5847, October 13, 2020

Approved by Managing Director: Pam Menchenton, 902-719-4950, October 13, 2020

Approved by Deputy:

Approved by Minister:



ADVICE TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Agenda Item #  
November 10, 2020

DEPARTMENT: Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH)

13(1)

SUBJECT: Emergency homeless shelter beds

BACKGROUND:

- 1. The responsibilities of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH, “the department”) includes helping people experiencing homelessness access safe housing.
- 2. There are 11 homeless shelters in Nova Scotia. 8 of those are largely funded through the department, although some positions within them may be funded from other sources.

Shelter	Location	Beds (pre-COVID)	Current beds	Clients	Provincially funded?
Adsum	HRM	16	17	Women and children	Yes
Phoenix	HRM	20	20	Youth	Yes
Metro Turning Point	HRM	55	30	Men	Yes
Barry House	HRM	20	17	Women and children	Yes
Salvation Army	HRM	62	42	Men	Yes
Out of the Cold	HRM	15	15	Co-ed	Yes
Cape Breton Community Housing Association	Sydney	20	28	Co-ed	Yes
SHYFT	Yarmouth	7	7	Youth	Yes
Viola’s Place	New Glasgow	8	4	Co-ed	No
Truro Hub House	Truro	16	10	Co-ed	No
Inn from the Cold	Kentville	0	12	Co-ed	No
Total		239 (215 provincially-funded)	202 (176 provincially-funded)		

- 3. In light of COVID-19, Public Health inspected all shelters to examine their ability to conform with safe distancing requirements. As a result of these inspections, some shelters were required to reduce the number of beds they provided.
- 4. There was a reduction of 4 beds in New Glasgow, 8 beds in Truro, and 47 beds in HRM.
- 5. Within HRM, per the table above, Metro Turning Point (MTP) saw a reduction of 25 beds, Salvation Army (SA) had 20 beds reduced, Barry House had 3 beds reduced and Adsum House added 1. MTP and SA both serve men only.
- 6. Significant investments have been made or committed to in this area, including an increase of almost \$19 million under the Nova Scotia Action Plan for Affordable Housing and an addition investment of over \$4 million in the Integrated Action Plan to Address Homelessness in the 20-21 provincial budget, and a September 2020 federal announcement of a \$1 billion rapid housing capital funding program.

PROPOSAL:

13(1) 14(1)

STAFF ANALYSIS:

[Redacted]

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

16. What is the impact to current year and out years? Is the duration reasonable given context of the request?

[Redacted]

17. Is the request within approved / planned thresholds? [Redacted]

18. Are there significant uncertainties, conditions, contingencies, and / or risks? [Redacted]


[Redacted]

[Redacted]

19. Is the financial request reasonable from a consolidated / corporate perspective? [Redacted]

**STAFF ASSESSMENT:**

[Redacted]

  
Jeff Langley, CPA, CA  
Corporate Financial Advisor  
(Assessment of financial risk and implications)

  
Frazer Egerton  
Cabinet Advisor  
Executive Council Office