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MAR 19 2015

Ms. Kim Langille, Clerk
Standing Committee on Community Services
Legislative Committee Office
Housing of Assembly
Nova Scotia
P. O. Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

Dear Ms. Langille:

Thank you for your letters of January 16 and March 5, 2015, requesting further information following our presentation to the Standing Committee on Community Services, on January 6, 2015. On behalf of Mr. Lake and Mr. MacDonald, it was our pleasure to appear before the Committee to discuss Housing Nova Scotia and its activities.

With regard to the specific information that the Committee has requested, I have attached a copy of the Household Income Limits (HILs) to this letter. As you will note, there are Household Income Limits for Federal-Provincial Cost-Shared Programs, effective November 18, 2013. These include senior and family public housing, rent supplement, renovation programs under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) suite of programs, and Affordable Housing Programs including New Rental and Rental Preservation. You may also note that there is a second set of HILs for the Senior Citizens Assistance Program (SCAP) and the Provincial Housing Emergency Repair Program (PHERP), effective October 16, 2012.

Housing Nova Scotia expects that the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will issue new HILs this Spring and, and at that time, income thresholds in the SCAP and PHERP regulations will be amended to reflect these new HILs.

With respect to the Youth Outreach Program, this program provides range of services delivered by community based groups and is designed to improve the immediate and long-term social, educational and health outcomes for youth at risk. Nine youth outreach workers are located across the province. Specific outcomes targeted include:

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- improved access to basic needs (food, shelter, transportation);
- improved problem-solving, life and communication skills;
- improved academic and vocational success;
- increase in positive civic and community participation/engagement;
- increase in positive, healthy relationships (with peers and caring adults);
- increased opportunities to experience success and build self-esteem;
- increase in healthy life choices;
- increased opportunities for community and peer leadership;
- increased linkages to existing supports and resources in the community; and
- increased ability to find opportunities and solutions to issues related to, for example, housing, employment, and education.

An evaluation of the program currently taking place is youth-led with first voice. This evaluation is anticipated to be completed by Summer of 2015.

Finally, the average length of tenancy in public housing, provincially for both family and senior units, is 7.7 years. Within Halifax Regional Municipality, the length of tenancy for seniors is 11.1 years and families is 10.0 years.

Again, my thanks to you for your letters, and to the members of the Standing Committee for their interest in Housing Nova Scotia and in the programs and services we offer, to assist our low to moderate income Nova Scotians in accessing safe and affordable housing.

If you should have any further questions, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dan Troke
Chief Executive Officer
Housing Nova Scotia

Enclosure: 1

Copies: Neil MacDonald, Director, Housing Services, Housing Nova Scotia
Ed Lake, Director, Properties and Facilities, Housing Nova Scotia

Household Income Limits
Federal-Provincial Cost-Shared Programs
Effective November 18, 2013

| Location | 1 Bedroom | 2 Bedroom | 3+ Bedroom |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Halifax (CMA) | \$30,500 | \$37,000 | \$47,500 |
| Small Towns (CAs) | | | |
| Sydney CA | \$24,000 | \$32,500 | \$40,000 |
| Other Small Towns* | \$23,500 | \$29,000 | \$32,000 |
| Rural Areas | \$30,000 | \$35,000 | \$42,000 |

* Includes the Census Agglomerations of Kentville, Truro, and New Glasgow

Household Income Limits
Senior Citizens Assistance Program (SCAP)&
Provincial Housing Emergency Repair Program (PHERP)
Effective October 16, 2012

| Location | Total Household Income Limit | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| | 1 Bedroom | 2 Bedrooms | 3+ Bedrooms |
| Halifax | \$30 000 | \$36 000 | \$45 500 |
| Sydney | \$24 000 (1) | \$30 500 | \$40 000 |
| Small towns* | \$23 000 (1) | \$29 000 | \$32 000 |
| Rest of Province | \$29 000 | \$33 500 | \$38 500 |

* Includes the Census Agglomerations of Kentville, Truro, and New Glasgow

(1) \$25,000 for SCAP