Housing and Strategic Initiatives Division
Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2013 Quarter 4 (October to December)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Division staff discussed project proposals with proponents and began review of proposals that were submitted in the latter portion of the quarter.
- Thirteen Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $134,140.

Activities and Accomplishments

- Division staff consulted with representatives of other divisions and departments regarding the Draft Winnipeg Housing Policy Implementation Plan.
- Division staff attended five meetings of Housing Stakeholders (monthly or bi-monthly meetings) Housing Improvement Zone neighbourhoods where funds are allocated from the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve (HRIR). These meetings serve not only to discuss use of allocated funds from the City but also to foster collaboration between the community, non-profit and for-profit developers, and the three levels of government. One of these meetings was the first meeting of housing stakeholders in the Centennial neighbourhood to be held in approximately two years, and was attended by 17 individuals representing a wide range of housing stakeholders in the neighbourhood.
- Division staff worked cooperatively with representatives of the Centennial neighbourhood to complete the new Centennial Housing Plan that was funded through the City's HRIR. This plan will provide guidance to the community and to the City in housing related development and activity in the Centennial neighbourhood for the coming five years.
- Division staff attended the second annual conference of the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association, which represents non-profit housing organizations across Manitoba. The City of Winnipeg also provided sponsorship funding for the event.
- Division staff attended Annual Meetings of two community organizations (the William Whyte Residents Association and the Centennial Community Improvement Association) that receive funds from the City through the HRIR to enhance community capacity in these neighbourhoods.
- Division staff participated in the initial planning meeting of a new Visitability Task Force project undertaken by the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies, with the ultimate goal of increasing the supply of visitable housing in Winnipeg as well as in other communities. The task force also includes or will include representatives from other levels of government, from the planning and architectural communities, and from non-profit sectors including organization serving seniors and people with disabilities.
- Division staff continued to participate in the Intergovernmental Strategic Aboriginal Alignment (ISAA) pilot project for the 21-block area of the North End. Meetings included representatives from Community By-law Enforcement regarding efforts to improve housing conditions in the target area.
- Division staff gave a presentation to 311 trainees regarding funding and other supports provided through the Housing and Strategic Initiatives Division.