November 10, 2022
Michael Jack
City of Winnipeg
510 Main St, Winnipeg
MB, R3B 1B9

Dear Michael Jack,

**RE: Priority Allocation for Your Municipality from the Rapid Housing Initiative**

I am pleased to inform you that your municipality has been identified for immediate funding to create new permanent affordable housing under the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI), for which additional funding was announced in Budget 2022.

Given the large number of applications received, the Government of Canada is investing an additional $1.5 billion for the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI). The funding will be divided into two streams as follows:

- $500 million allocated directly to 41 pre-determined municipalities (Cities Stream), and
- $1 billion to be allocated under the Projects Stream for eligible applications through an application window that will remain open for a period of approximately 90 days.

As part of the Cities Stream envelope, your municipality has been identified for funding of $11,631,916 to create a minimum of 46 units of new permanent affordable housing. Please keep this allocation confidential and do not release it publicly until a joint announcement has been made with your Municipality and our Minister.

While the parameters for this round of RHI are largely the same, I would like to highlight the following changes and important information that will be critical to successfully implementing your Cities Stream allocation:

- CMHC will enter into agreements with municipalities first and agree to proposed projects later. We understand this sequencing may pose challenges for municipalities, especially those coming out of an election cycle. Your collaboration to execute an agreement quickly is needed for the funding to be committed and disbursed before the end of the fiscal year 2022/2023.
- CMHC will enter into agreements with municipalities based on minimum unit achievement requirements. Each municipality's minimum unit requirement was calculated according to the proportion of overall funding received under the Cities Stream to achieve an overall target of 1500 units. Funding will be transferred to your municipality in full upon the successful execution of an RHI agreement.
- Once agreements are signed and the application window opens, Municipalities will have approximately 90 days to submit their proposed projects through CMHC's online platform. CMHC will aim to review all proposed projects within 60 days of the submission deadline. Once proposed projects have been approved, they will be added to the RHI Agreement through an amendment.
- CMHC continues to listen to stakeholder feedback and improve on lessons learned from the first two rounds of funding. For this round of RHI, projects proposed by Municipalities will now have up to 18 months (24 months in the North) from the date their projects are approved to reach occupancy. This additional 6 months will provide municipalities more time to adapt to the challenges arising from the current construction climate.
- As CMHC standardizes its energy efficient criteria across all its programs, new construction projects in this round of RHI will now be required to meet energy efficiency standards as set out in the 2017 National Energy Code for Buildings (NECB) for

Part 3 buildings and the 2015 National Building Code (NBC) for Part 9 buildings, as applicable. This is a deviation from previous rounds of RHI that were evaluated against the higher of the 2015 NECB or the local/regional standard.

- As was the case with the second round of RHI, at least 25 per cent of RHI funding will go towards women-focused housing projects, including under the Cities Stream. As well, CMHC continues to ask that municipalities work with Indigenous-led organizations to target 15 per cent of funding for urban Indigenous peoples. To increase the overall impact of RHI funding, we encourage all partners to take a community benefits approach when implementing projects.

Your municipality will also be able to apply under the Projects Stream should you have projects in excess of your allocation received under the Cities Stream. In such cases, projects will be prioritized in a competitive process with all other applications received under the Projects Stream.

Further details regarding updated RHI criteria, timelines, and process to submit your proposed projects for the Cities Stream and, if applicable, submit projects to the Projects Stream, will be shared soon. As imminent next steps, CMHC will be hosting a multilateral call on November 15 with all municipalities under the Cities Stream and an RHI Webinar for all eligible applicants on November 16 for which invitations will be sent shortly. Once you receive these invitations, I would ask that you immediately forward them to the key contact(s) on your team that will be leading the implementation of your RHI allocation. I understand this is very short notice; however, these events will provide important information to help coordinate with your municipality in rapidly delivering housing to the most vulnerable in your community.

In the cover email accompanying this letter, I have included important information for you and your team. I ask that you please ensure your key contact(s) connect with Mathieu Manton, at mmanton@cmhc-schl.gc.ca as soon as possible and copy GovernmentRelationsGouvernementales@cmhc-schl.gc.ca so we can start moving the process forward.

I know that RHI creates pressure on municipalities to deliver housing under challenging timelines while adhering to their own risk management and approval processes. Our team is here to work with you to help navigate any obstacles and to maximize the impact this funding can have in your community.

Partnerships are the cornerstone of the National Housing Strategy and contribute to its success. I was pleased that other orders of government provided financial support for projects under the first two rounds of RHI. The results achieved would not have been possible without the support of the provincial, territorial, and municipal governments as well as Indigenous governing bodies. I look forward to continued collaboration between all orders of government.

We look forward to working with you to help address urgent housing needs of people and populations who are vulnerable.

Yours Sincerely,



Chris Woodcock
Director, Client Development and Government Relations
Client Solutions

CC
Mathieu Manton
Senior Specialist, Government Relations

RHI 3 – Cities Stream

Important information and events

**1. Cities Stream Multilateral Call – November 15, 1pm ET**

CMHC will host a bilingual multilateral call for all Cities Stream recipients to give a high-level overview of RHI. An invitation to this call will be sent to municipalities imminently. We ask that this invitation be forwarded immediately to the appropriate contacts within your municipality that will be responsible for working with CMHC to finalize projects and funding arrangements for your RHI allocation.

**2. RHI Webinars**

CMHC will present a series of Webinars to all eligible applicants, including cities, to provide you with an introduction to RHI, application readiness, how to navigate the portal and a session dedicated to non-profit applicants. Each Webinar will have both English and French sessions and will provide you an opportunity to ask questions. The schedule for these webinars is included below and a calendar invitation will be sent to your email shortly. While cities can use their discretion on which sessions to attend based on their comfort and knowledge of RHI, we recommend you ensure someone from your team attend these webinars as it is the primary opportunity to get detailed information on RHI.

- **Introduction to RHI 3**
  - November 16: French session @ 11am ET, English session @ 2pm ET
  - November 23: French session @ 11am ET, English session @ 2pm ET
- **RHI 3 Application Readiness**
  - November 29: French session @ 11am ET, English session @ 2pm ET
  - December 8 French session @ 11am ET, English session @ 2pm ET
- **RHI 3 for Non-Profit Organizations**
  - December 1: French session @ 11am ET, English session @ 2pm ET
  - December 14: French session @ 11am ET, English session @ 2pm ET
- **CMHC Portal Walkthrough for RHI 3**
  - December 13: French session @ 11am ET, English session @ 2pm ET
  - January 11: French session @ 11am ET, English session @ 2pm ET

**3. Bilateral Discussions – Week of November 21**

Once your municipality has identified your key contact(s) to your CMHC City Lead, an initial bilateral discussion will then be scheduled. This meeting will introduce the CMHC team that will work with City staff on the Cities Stream and give you a further opportunity to ask questions and start discussing potential projects.

**4. Agreement Walkthrough – Week of November 28**

After all municipalities have had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of RHI, CMHC will host another multilateral call to go over the RHI agreement for the Cities Stream. I recommend including

representation from your legal services to gain comfort around the agreement to expedite your approval processes.

**5. CMHC Online Portal – December 12 (Launch day)**

As of December 12, you can log into the CMHC portal to submit your proposed projects for the Cities Stream and, as applicable, submit additional projects under the Projects Stream. The window will remain open until March 15, 2023. All completed applications under the Cities Stream will be reviewed within 60 days of the window closing. Applications submitted under the Projects Stream will be reviewed within 90 days of the window's closing. Subject to CMHC's review and approval, the Cities Stream projects will be added to the signed agreement by way of an amendment. Any projects approved under the Projects Stream will be added to the same Cities Stream agreement through an amending letter.

For detailed information of how to submit your projects under both the Cities and Projects Streams, CMHC will be hosting a webinar on how to navigate the portal and will provide municipalities with an Applicant Guide prior to the opening of the application window. Dates and times for the webinar are noted above in Section 2.