

## **Lanark County Housing Corporation (LCHC) to merge into Lanark County operations**

At a Special Community Services Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 County Council directed that staff move forward with the recommendation to assume the management and administration of the Lanark County Housing Corporation (LCHC) under the direct umbrella of the County operations, more specifically the Lanark County Social Services Department. The status of the LCHC will be maintained as a “shell corporation.” Currently the Lanark County Housing Corporation operates as a separate corporation reporting to a Board of Directors, with the role of the Service Manager being provided by the Lanark County Social Services Department.

While the Lanark County Housing Corporation has provided excellent service to its tenants across the County this merger supports integration of our services, provides for efficiencies, simplifies reporting and approval lines, and will ensure effective long-term service planning. It is also seen as a very positive step in the delivery of affordable housing and the access to service that will be provided to the tenants of the approximately 533 housing units at 26 different locations in Mississippi Mills, Carleton Place, Perth and Smiths Falls. Ultimately, housing tenants will be afforded the opportunity to access full services through Lanark County Social Services offices to meet their needs. The social housing tenants, community stakeholders and members of the public can expect a seamless transition with minimal, if any disruptions.

“We are very excited about the integration of the Lanark County Housing Corporation (LCHC) into the County operations. While the Board and staff at LCHC have done a great job managing the housing portfolio, the opportunities that lie ahead will be fantastic. The support of the LCHC Board in this decision should not go unrecognized,” said Warden John Fenik (Perth Mayor).

Management of the Service Delivery Transition Plan will be supported by an Implementation Team, consisting of the Lanark County Director of Social Services, Finance, HR and the Interim Executive Director of LCHC. The plan has been developed to guide the integration of the Lanark County Housing Corporation (LCHC) into the Lanark County Social Housing program, under the Social Services Department, no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The new department will be entitled Housing Services, and the current 13 LCHC staff will be offered employment with Lanark County.

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