



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee

MINUTES

Date: July 15, 2025
Time: 4:30 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services and Interim Director of Human Resources, John Ritz - Supervisor Homelessness and Housing Stability, Jeff Wilson – Manager of Housing, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Victoria Trotter - Council Committee Coordinator

Also Present: Members of the public

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Respectful Conduct Statement

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the July 15, 2025, Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Director of Social Services

4.1 Annual Community Income Tax Clinic for Completion of 2024 Returns (SOC25-008)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the City of Stratford issue a thank you to all businesses that provided their support and services during the Annual Community Income Tax Clinic.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services noted 122 individuals having accessed the free income tax clinics and expressed gratitude to Famme & Co. Professional Corporation and McCutchen & Pearce Professional Corporation for their support.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the City of Stratford issue a thank you to all businesses that provided their support and services during the Annual Community Income Tax Clinic.

Carried

5. Report of the Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability

5.1 Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund approval (SOC25-009)

Staff Recommendation: THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk on behalf of The Corporation for the City of Stratford to enter into an agreement with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness for the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund and to sign any additional documentation required.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Homelessness and Housing Stability Supervisor provided an overview of the report highlighting the following:

- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness to contribute \$120,000 towards the design, implementation and evaluation of the project;
- the aim being to reduce chronic homeless households; and

- to assist with first and last months rent and short term subsidy.

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk on behalf of The Corporation for the City of Stratford to enter into an agreement with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness for the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund and to sign any additional documentation required.

Carried

6. Department Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services noted the majority of numbers having increased and stated staff continue to chart and look for variances throughout the year.

A discussion took place between Sub-committee and the Director of Social Services. Highlights of the discussion included:

- the number of children on the childcare waitlist continuing to increase;
- there being a target for the number of new spaces to be available by the end of the 2025;
- there being a system in place for a heat advisory for three (3) consecutive days of temperatures above 36 degrees Celsius;
- sunscreen and water being provided to those living unsheltered during heat advisories;
- a presentation to the Province to be made by staff regarding the cooling systems approach being taken;
- there being a program for individuals on social assistance to apply for air conditioners; and
- there being air conditioning in many housing units and in common areas.

7. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is September 9, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:44 P.M.