



**TO:** Council

**FROM:** SCEEMO Advisory Board

**DATE:** April 26, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Accessible Washroom – SCEEMO Reserves

**ORIGIN:** SCEEMO Advisory Board

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### **RECOMMENDED MOTIONS**

That the Municipality of the District of Shelburne approves using up to \$4,500 of the SCEEMO Reserves to be used to partner with Our House Youth Wellness Centre on their accessible washroom project in exchange for a partnership agreement with SCEEMO for use of the washroom facilities in emergency situations, as recommended by the SCEEMO Advisory Board.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the SCEEMO Advisory Board meeting the following motion was made:

“THAT the SCEEMO Advisory Board recommend to Council that up to \$4,500 of the SCEEMO reserve be used to partner with Our House Youth Wellness Center on their accessible washroom project in exchange for a partnership agreement with SCEEMO for use of the washroom facilities in emergency situations.”

During emergency situations, making available the use of washroom facilities to our residents has been a challenge. While local groups have seen the need and offered their facilities, it has not been ideal to plan, advertise and manage these locations during an emergency. We are thankful for these groups (historically the Fire Departments) as they have volunteered their facilities and services to accommodate the community need during droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and/or prolonged power outages.

Last drought season, during COVID-19, a number of new challenges presented themselves (cleaning

between users, contact tracing, etc.) and Our House Youth Wellness Center offered the use of their washroom facilities to the public during certain hours that they were already open. They offered to make the appointments, do the contact tracing and cleaning, and coordinate the user information to our SCEEMO Coordinator.

The service was well used and easily administered. We are recommending continuing this partnership with Our House Youth Wellness Center and expand on it so that plans can be made proactively for any/all emergency situations requiring washroom facilities. Our House is planning a renovation to make their second washroom fully accessible. They are applying for a grant to obtain funding for this project, and we feel there is a benefit to contributing funds towards this project in exchange for a partnership agreement for the use of the washrooms during emergency situations.

SCEEMO is anticipating an estimated surplus for 2020-21 of \$4,500, which will go into reserves when the books close for that year. The SCEEMO Advisory Board are recommending that some of those reserves be used to assist in funding the washroom project at Our House. 70% of the project funding is provided by this grant – if approved. The Board sees this as a win-win-win for Our House (having an additional partner on their grant application will be beneficial), for SCEEMO (having a dedicated washroom space in emergency situations that can enacted on short notice) and for the residents (having consistency and secure knowledge that if they lose water in an emergency, they will have a place to go).

### **Budget Implications**

Funds would come from the SCEEMO Reserves.

### **Conclusion**

The Board felt the partnership with Our House was very valuable last year during the drought and welcomes community partners during emergency situations.