

2019 ANNUAL REPORT: WESTERN REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Andrena Teed
Municipality of Digby representative

On Thursday 7 November, the Western Regional Housing Authority met for its annual general meeting. Here are the highlights of that meeting.

The Western Regional Housing Authority, under the auspices of Housing Nova Scotia, has been moved to the Department of Municipal Affairs. This seems to be a more sensible department for Housing Nova Scotia, since the housing more logically fits as a municipal concern, and is addressed at a municipal level across the province.

Elections were held for volunteer executive positions. Chair: Charles Haliburton; Vice-Chair: Bill Carroll; Secretary: Andrena Teed

The National Housing Strategy has led to a binary agreement for Nova Scotia to receive \$370 million over ten years to reduce the public housing waiting list, improve the housing stock, and increase the supply of other units. Rent supplements will be used to help reduce the waiting list; 100 were allocated for the Western Regional Housing Authority for this year. There is an implementation of 'green' initiatives when the housing is repaired/serviced/improved, including off-peak power consumption and solar panels in the net-zero building in Hebron. The expectation is that 'green' initiatives will continue.

The term appointment of the Municipality of Digby representative requires an extension letter from the Municipality. The term for this representative expires in May 2020. The Office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs should send a request for extension, but due to the recent changes in portfolio, this may be inadvertently overlooked. Nora MacPhee, Secretary at the Western Regional Housing Authority requested all municipalities to check with her or the Minister of Municipal Affairs about the process to ensure that the required paperwork is completed in a timely manner.

Summary of housing in the Municipality of Digby:

Applications received as follows:

- Family Units: 11
- Senior Units: 4
- Non-Elderly Units: 4

Moved in to housing units:

- Family: 1
- Senior: 1
- Non-Elderly: 1

There are 2600 housing units in the Western Region; 354 persons or families were housed.