January 18, 2007

Subject: Support on the recommendations made by Perth County Coalition Against Poverty

Representatives of the Perth County Coalition Against Poverty have provided a report that identifies a number of issues that they would like to see the Council of Stratford act upon, to assist in alleviating what this group perceives as unnecessary hardship, for those members of our society that find themselves in financial difficulties.

Please be advised that at the Council of the City of Stratford, at their meeting on December 11, 2006 passed the following resolution regarding certain matters/issues concerning poverty or those people who have a financial hardship:

1. That Council does support the ideals and purpose of rent-to-own, building of more co-operative housing and similar models of housing that integrate people into all levels of society.

2. That The City of Stratford shall request of all levels of Government to increase funding to shelters for women and children escaping violence and abuse.

3. That The City of Stratford shall request the Federal Government to set an actual "poverty line" based upon the basic living needs of an individual, a couple, a family with two and then four children within the Country of Canada.

4. That The City of Stratford shall further request that the Federal Government review the taxation of seniors and low-income earners living at or below the "poverty line".

5. That the City of Stratford shall request all levels of Government to create more support systems for low income seniors pertaining to property taxes, enabling them to remain in their own homes.

6. That The City of Stratford shall request that all level of Government honour their commitments, past and present, to alleviate the situation immediately and that Federal and Provincial members of Parliament and also AMO be asked to provide their support of these resolutions.

The City of Stratford would like your consideration on the endorsement of these matters and would like to request that you forward letters of support directly to the provincial and federal representatives.

Please contact Joan Thomson, City Clerk, at 519-271-0250 ext 235 or email at jthomson@city.stratford.on.ca if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Thank you.