
2004 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Issue/Background:

At its meeting on February 11, 2004, the Community Services Committee recommended that City Council adopt the following recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged contained in the communication dated October 17, 2003, from the City Clerk:

“That the City support the principle that funds which are allocated from the Province to enhance resident care and service not be used to offset the City’s contribution to the Homes for the Aged.”

In addition, the Community Services Committee directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report to the Budget Advisory Committee on the impact of restoring \$100.0 thousand net to the Homes for the Aged 2004 Operating Budget, such report to include the nursing, personal care and quality of life services that could be added by the City sustaining its net contribution at 2003 adjusted budget levels.

Key Point(s):

A key priority for the Homes for the Aged Division is the direct provision of nursing and personal care to residents. There is a growing need for professional nursing interventions (e.g., assessment, treatment, restorative care and range of motion) as the number of residents in the Toronto Homes with dementia and physical care requirements continue to increase. The impact of restoring \$100.0 thousand to the Homes for the Aged budget would be a direct benefit to residents, as it would enable the Division to add 2.0 full-time equivalent Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) positions to the Homes program. Registered Practical Nurses provide essential care and service to residents, and they support residents with their activities daily living. The increase in registered nursing staffing would also assist the Division to respond to the higher standards of care that are currently being developed by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for release in the late spring. The Division believes that the RPN’s scope of practice would best meet the care and service needs of its residents.

Date: February 26, 2004