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CAPITAL BUDGET:
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING
QUESTIONS TAKEN AS NOTICE – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Why was there a delay in implementing the SDM technology and will there be a phased roll-out?

The Structured Decision Making model consists of six assessment tools that help Child Protection Services work to: reduce subsequent harm to children, promote the safety and well-being of children, and expedite permanent (permanent living arrangements) for children. These tools are:

- Intake screening and response time assessment'
- Safety assessment
- Risk assessment
- Family strengths and needs assessment;
- Reunification assessment; and
- Risk re-assessment.

The first three (out of the above list) web-hosted assessment tools will be implemented by spring 2021 with the remaining three to by December 2022. This allocation was part of the 2019 fall capital budget; however, there was a pause in delivery due to COVID-19. The US-based vendor halted their work in the early months of 2020 and work resumed in early summer 2020. All training and implementations are now virtual.

What are the Department's plans in relation to the funding announced federally related to the Rapid Housing Stream?

This question is not related to the capital budget. However, in relation to the Rapid Housing Initiative, the department of Social Development and Housing is assisting community organizations in submitting applications and working with community organizations to submit joint-applications.

These applications will be submitted by the deadline, December 31, 2020.

Can you provide details on the capital repairs needed for the government owned housing stock? Is there a list of planned repairs for 2021/22 with the $800k included in the budget? How are the priorities determined and who is involved in the decision-making?

Yes, there is a current list of planned repairs of 2021/22. Please see "Appendix A," for this list. Please note this list does not include dollar figures in order to respect the tender process.

Priorities are determined by the level of need, which is assessed by Housing Services' maintenance staff who work in the buildings and know them best. The age of the buildings, including the replacement schedule for key building components supports determining the level of need. The Housing Services Management Team reviews the information provided by staff and prioritizes the list.

While $800,000 is allocated in the Capital Budget for repairs, there are funds allocated in the operational budget for on-going repairs.

What involvement has PEI had in accessing the Federal Reaching Home Strategy?

The Federal government allots funds from the federal Reaching Home strategy to a community entity (John Howard Society) to deliver related programming. A community advisory board supports the community entity to make decisions regarding the needs, and how the funding is spent. There is a representative from the department of Social Development and Housing on the community advisory board.

How has COVID affected the time line for the Departmental housing units under construction and the planning for new units?

Generally, COVID-19 has pushed the timeline for units under construction back 3-4 months. Internally, the department of Social Development and Housing re-allocated internal resources during the early days of the pandemic to initiate the Temporary Rental Assistance Benefit (TRAB). The TRAB was put in place to ensure support to renters who experienced income loss due to COVID-19.

Additionally, the pandemic put more pressure on the construction industry exacerbating the existing shortage of workers and creating supply chain issues. Contractors had to change building schedules as they took the necessary time to implement COVID-19 prevention measures to support their workers having safe work environments. The department re-scheduled the issuance of RFP's as there was too much uncertainty for contractors to respond during the early days of the pandemic. For transparency purposes, all projects go through an RFP process which is time consuming for the applicant.

What is the funding allocation for playgrounds and green space?

While undertaking any new social housing project, the department of Social Development and Housing considers green space and outdoor play areas, especially for family housing units. There is no specific budget for playgrounds and green space within the project's budget. The ability to access greenspace and playgrounds is also considered when choosing project locations so as not to duplicate resources that already exist.

How many capital builds are in taking place in total?

There are currently five capital builds (116 units) in progress.

Are there plans in the capital budget to replenish affordable housing units who have an expiring contract with the Province?

Any funding provided to private developers to create affordable units received funding through the Operating Budget, not the Capital Budget. The Capital Budget does not cover this type of expenditure.

It should be noted that tenants who currently live in units, owned by private landlords who have received a construction grant from the province to make their units affordable, are not at risk of being evicted or have a substantial rent increase. The Island Regulatory and Appeals

Commission (IRAC) administers the provincial statutes that residential landlords must follow, and these statutes also apply to landlords with affordable units. One of these statutes protects tenants from substantial rental increases, and limits rental increases to an annually approved rate, which for 2021 is 1%.

APPENDIX A:

Social Development and Housing
2021-2022 Capital Budget - Renovations

Location	# Units	Project
Haviland Court	39	Elevator upgrade
Hemlock Court A	16	Cupboards
Kensington G	6	Sidewalks
Kinkora B	5	Roof
Maple Home	6	Interior painting
Montague B	4	Parking lot
Montague C	6	Sidewalks
O'Leary B Extension	6	Roof
Queens Court	37	Elevator Upgrade
Souris D	6	Siding, doors, & insulation
Souris A	4	Siding, windows, & doors
Souris B	4	Siding, windows, & insulation
Souris C	4	Siding, doors, windows & eaves trough
Souris E	8	Parking lot
Souris F	5	Roof
Souris K	12	Roof
St. Peters B	5	Roof
Summerside F	22	Roof
Summerside F	22	Parking lot
Summerside G	8	Parking lot
Summerside M	14	Roof
Wilmot	6	Roof
Wilmot	6	Sidewalks
Tignish A	6	Siding, windows, & doors