

Municipal Update: Emergency Accommodations

For the period of Dec. 10 – Dec 16, 2021

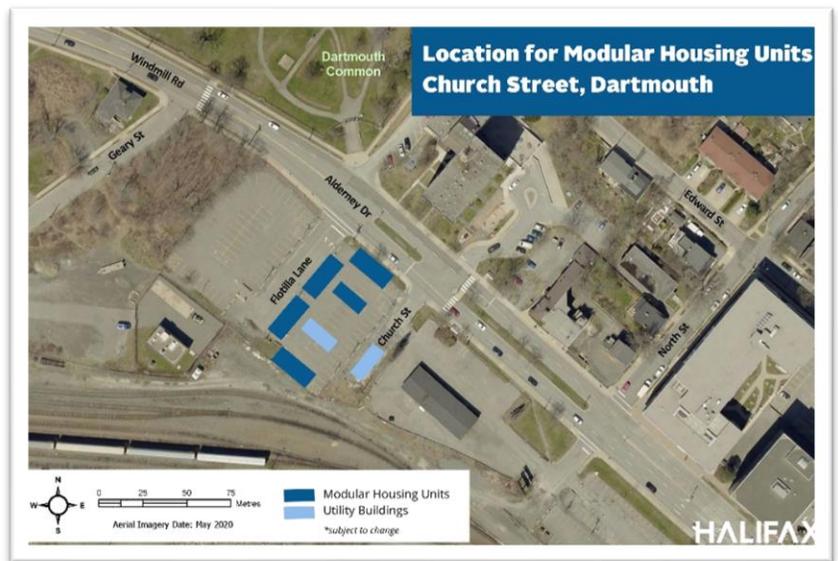
Date of issue: Dec 17, 2021

Municipal updates will be issued on a weekly basis to provide progress reports on efforts to establish emergency accommodations sites in Dartmouth and Halifax. These updates will be provided until modular units have been installed at both sites by the municipality and the Province of Nova Scotia has begun to place individuals at the sites and provide wrap around services. Depending upon the status of progress, frequency of updates may vary.

Topline update

Dartmouth site

- Due to a number of factors outside the municipality's control – including weather, unforeseen site conditions associated with unsuitable soils, and ongoing supply chain issues regarding the securing of electrical equipment – completion of municipal work to make the Dartmouth site ready for occupancy is expected to be delayed until the first week of January 2022.
- **Note:** Exact timing for occupancy is dependent upon the Province of Nova Scotia, which is responsible for determining placement of individuals and providing wrap-around services onsite through its service provider (Out of the Cold).
- Gray Arena will remain operational through the holiday season and into January. Occupants of Gray Arena will not be asked to vacate until alternate accommodations have been offered.
- The municipality continues to work with partners to complete the work as quickly as possible. Further updates will be shared as information becomes available.
- The Dartmouth site, located on Alderney Drive near Church Street, will comprise of four modular units, an accessible modular unit and two support units, for a total seven (7) units.
- This site will be able to accommodate 26 individuals, based on single occupancy.



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Halifax site

- Six modular units, an accessible modular unit and a number of support units, for a total of nine (9) units, will be installed on a portion of the Centennial Pool parking lot.
- This site will be able to accommodate 38 individuals, based on single occupancy.
- The timeline for the installation of the modular units will become clearer as we complete the Dartmouth site.



Staffing support

- To assist in responding to homelessness issues, Regional Council approved a Social Policy Strategist position in the 2021/22 budget which has been filled. This position will act as the main contact for community stakeholders and service providers and will coordinate development of homelessness plans and strategies for the municipality.
- In addition, a full-time Housing and Homelessness Coordinator has recently been hired on a 12-month term. This position will conduct outreach work to support, and help house, those experiencing homelessness, in coordination with community service providers.
- Assistant Chief of Emergency Management, Erica Fleck, has completed her three-month assignment – which began in September 2021 – to lead the urgent operational efforts to advance Council’s directive regarding emergency housing measures.

Service providers

- The municipality has provided \$70,000 to a coalition of community service providers for use as crisis funding to support those experiencing homelessness. Municipal staff are working on a detailed plan to provide further funding to this group, which will support this activity until the end of the 2021/22 fiscal year.