



CRDCEH

Community Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 4, 2024

12:00-1:00pm - Campbell River Library

1. Attendance

- a. Stefanie Hendrickson - CRDCEH Coordinator
- b. Dawn Schroeder - North Island Rent Bank - Comox Valley Affordable Housing Society
- c. Heather Gordon Murphy - Campbell River Downtown BIA
- d. Paul Bertrand - Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- e. Ian Baikie - Community Volunteer - Hama?elas Community Kitchen / Food Bank
- f. Danielle Hoogland - North Island College
- g. Naomi Tabata - North Island College
- h. Alysha Diamond - Salvation Army Evergreen Shelter
- i. Chrystal Arnet - Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North
- j. Bailey McKay - John Howard Society
- k. Grace Mukadzambo - John Howard Society
- l. Kristi Schwanicke - Vancouver Island Mental health Society
- m. Jeff Ford - City of Campbell River
- n. Sean Smyth - City of Campbell River (Council)
- o. Kaylin Fowler - Ligwadax Health (MOUHSS)
- p. June McNab - Community Member
- q. Michaela Arruda - Campbell River Community Foundation
- r. Meredith Starkey - Strathcona Regional District
- s. Donna Desmet - North Island Employment Foundation
- t. Sue Moen - Community Action Team
- u. Meagan Tomlinson - Island Health - Community Health
- v. Savannah John - Ehattesaht First Nation
- w. Joëlle Samson - CR Library

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. North Island Rent Bank (Dawn Schroeder)

- a. Have been running Comox Valley Rent Bank since September 2022
- b. Open to any renter in BC
- c. For folks with short-term financial needs
- d. Interest-free loan
- e. Work with client for repayment term to make it best for client
- f. Bank statements, two pieces of ID, and rental contract
- g. Cannot be more than 2 months behind in rent
- h. Person needs to be in sustainable housing
- i. Max is \$3000
- j. Rent cannot exceed monthly income
- k. Also work to connect people to other support services as needed and sometimes have supported with mediation with landlords



- I. How do people find out about the Rent Bank?
 - i. Connecting with community and other agencies
 - ii. Connecting with Ministry of SDPR (they refer)
 - iii. General advertising - posters, radio
- m. How do repayments work?
 - i. Loan comes with a contract and we set up terms together
 - ii. Flexible to respond to life events with payment
- n. How is the program funded (sustainability)?
 - i. Funding partners
 - ii. BC Rent Bank
 - iii. Government grants
 - iv. Loan capital
- o. How are interviews done?
 - i. Can be over the phone - doesn't need to be in person
- p. Do you work with landlords/property managers to promote the program?
 - i. No, have not done that yet but will look into options
 - ii. Folks might not want their landlord to know that they're having a hard time
- q. What does capacity look like?
 - i. BC Rent Bank willing to support growth

4. Coalition Updates

- a. Strategic Planning is underway
 - i. Engagement portion is complete
 - ii. We have identified the need to transition to a non-profit society
 - iii. We have not yet landed on what the exact purpose/mandate/name of such a society should be
- b. Recently co-hosted, with the City of Campbell River, a conversation with front-line outreach agencies to discuss best next steps for overnight camping.
 - i. When the HEARTH Village opens, the current allowable camping area in Nunns Creek will no longer be appropriate for overnight camping
 - ii. City is currently engaging with service providers and peers about this topic
 - iii. Looking at alternative locations that are the most appropriate and safe; understanding that encampments are not a solution to homelessness, the City's goal is to keep a human-centered approach to overnight camping conversations

5. North Island College

- a. NIC has been invited to present a business case to provide student housing at CR campus
- b. Are currently building housing in Comox Valley and very excited to be looking into this for CR
- c. Estimate 170 student units - including separate building with two bedroom units for students who come with families
- d. Will childcare be part of this?
 - i. Yes, plan is to build childcare into the family units
- e. What about cost?
 - i. Market rent or lower

6. Attendee-led Updates, Discussions, Networking, and Roundtable

- a. St. Vincent de Paul - hoping to build housing in Campbell River
 - i. Low income senior's housing
 - ii. Possibly looking for land
 - iii. Connection to private sector firms
- b. Question: Does Campbell River have a By-Name List (BNL)?
 - i. *Definitions:*
 - 1. *By-Name List - a real-time updated list of all people experiencing homelessness in a community. Information includes demographics, basic info, as well as time homeless, reasons for housing loss, and reason for exiting homelessness. BNLs are currently considered a promising practice at the local level to be able to actively respond to individual situations of homelessness in real time. The goal is to use them to make homelessness rare and brief.*
 - 2. *Coordinated Access and Assessment (CAA) - a committee made up of local housing providers and BC Housing who meet when there are vacancies in supportive and transitional housing (Q'Waxsem Place and the Rosebowl for Campbell River). Based on a series of criteria they identify individuals in the most need of housing to fill such vacancies. The gold standard is that ALL agencies with housing sit on one CAA committee and meet regularly so that flow in and out of buildings can happen seamlessly (service providers working in a coordinated manner to find the best housing option for the individual). In practice this does not currently happen in BC for a variety of reasons.*
 - 3. *For more info: <https://bfzcanada.ca/by-name-lists/>*
 - ii. Yes, Campbell River does have a BNL (it is not a "quality" BNL - not updated in real time and not enough agencies/staff have access to it - info is held by BC Housing and agencies/communities don't have access to the real-time data that they would ideally have).
 - 1. This BNL is part of a housing waitlist system via supportive housing applications (BC Housing) that also includes the CAA committee.
- c. June McNabb encouraged agencies and City to help the community understand better what it is we all do. Lots of people don't know and make assumptions about things that are not correct.
- d. Meredith (SRD) - Poverty Reduction Community Team meeting coming soon. Will confirm date and send to service providers.
- e. Joelle (CR Library) - Library and Community Action Team (CAT) will be doing another learning series in the Fall. Stay tuned!
 - i. Chrystal expressed interest in helping with that

7. Next meeting May 2, 2024 - Zoom