



**COALITION TO
END
HOMELESSNESS**
CAMPBELL RIVER & DISTRICT

CRDCEH

Community Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 6, 2022

12:00-1:00 via Zoom

1. In attendance

- a. Stefanie Hendrickson - CRDCEH Coordinator
- b. Emma Wallace - Rural Development Network
- c. Sulyn Cedar - Community Member, Quadra
- d. Mark Vonesch- Incoming Area B SRD Director
- e. Gina Forsyth - Community Member
- f. Courtney and Marie-Michele - John Howard Society
- g. Christina Henderson - Community Member
- h. Marc Kitteringham - Campbell River Mirror
- i. Roy Hales - Cortes Current
- j. Kaitlyn Nohr - Island Health
- k. Heather Brownhill - Legal Advocate
- l. Lisa Wilde - CR & District Association for Community Living
- m. Susan Guthrie-Dick - KCFN
- n. Gwen Donaldson - Community Action Team
- o. Joelle Samson - CR Library
- p. Ian Baikie - Community Member (Hama?elas Community Kitchen)
- q. Paul Bertrand - Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- r. Sue Moen - Salvation Army
- s. Tracy Armstrong - Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
- t. Kateri - Community Member
- u. Jeff West - Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North
- v. Renée LaBoucane - SRD
- w. Michelle Downey - Community Member
- x. Ken Blackburn - Community Member
- y. Michaela Arruda - Campbell River Community Foundation
- z. Taryn O'Flanagan - Vancouver Island Mental Health Society
- aa. Kristi Schwanicke - Vancouver Island Mental Health Society
- bb. Claire Moglove - City of Campbell River
- cc. Monique Bois - MP Rachel Blaney's office
- dd. Lucas Schuller - Community Member (Spirit Square Concerts)
- ee. Andy Adams - City of Campbell River
- ff. Shawn Decaire - Kwesa Place
- gg. Meredith Starkey - SRD
- hh. Signy Madden - United Way
- ii. Mara Kersey - North Island Métis Society
- jj. Lisa McHaffie - Community Member



2. Land Acknowledgement - (Stefanie Hendrickson - host)

Thank you for joining us today. I am joining you from the traditional and unceded territory of the Laichwiltach People. I am an uninvited guest on these lands. I would also like to formally condemn the vigilante actions that took place on Friday night; the night of the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, directed towards people experiencing homelessness. We know that Indigenous peoples are overrepresented in homelessness and are horrified by these actions in general but particularly disgusted that they happened on such a day. Our thoughts are with all of those who are affected by this type of ongoing trauma.

3. Welcome and Meeting Introduction (host)

The purpose of these meetings is to encourage coordination and collaboration related to homelessness and housing insecurity. This is a challenging topic and we welcome participants to bring up concerns in a respectful and constructive way; in a way that encourages us to collectively work towards solutions as a community. We know that the situation of homelessness is frustrating for many people whether you are experiencing homelessness or a community member. But we do ask that this meeting does not devolve into being a venting place for lengthy frustrations.

Reminder that this is a public meeting and media is often in attendance - if you have a topic that you would like to discuss that requires a less public venue we invite you to reach out to the coordinator.

Is there anyone who is new to the meeting or who has not attended for a while who would like to briefly introduce themselves?

- Ken Blackburn - Community member, council candidate, CR Arts Council - has not attended for awhile but happy to be here
- Jeff West - ED, Habitat for Humanity - Alison Liebel has moved on from Habitat and Jeff will be supporting the Coalition in her absence
- Mark Vonesch - incoming Area B SRD Director
- Marie-Michele - new housing support worker for John Howard Society (will be taking over for Courtney as Courtney moves into a new job)
- Monique Bois - First time attending - assistant to MP Blaney

4. Coalition Operational Updates (Stefanie Hendrickson)

- a. Federal Affordable and Rapid Housing Funding
 - i. Just a quick reminder that the Federal Affordable & Rapid Housing Funding is now open. For those of you who are considering or currently developing affordable housing projects, this is a great opportunity to access funding.
 - ii. Links to federal funding can be found here:
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/08/30/creating-nearly-17000-homes-canadians-across-country>
- b. MP Rachel Blaney - letters of support, inform of federal applications



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- i. On that note, I recently met with MP Blaney regarding a number of topics. Rachel mentioned that she encourages all of you to inform her office if you apply for any federal funding. This gives her the opportunity to advocate for your application. Her office is also able to provide letters of support to go along with funding applications whether they are federal applications or other grant funds.
- c. UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services grant supply needs - **CRDCEH ACTION ITEM, funds available**
 - i. The UBCM Strengthening Communities' Service grant team intentionally held back some of the supply funds from the original grant application in order to be able to respond to emerging needs. We have been able to do this throughout the year. However, we do have additional funds available that we are looking to spend by December 31. Please contact me at info@crhousing.net ASAP if your organization/agency/government requires supply funds. These are supplies specifically for people experiencing homelessness and can include things such as tents and sleeping bags, items to carry people's belongings, basic necessities such as hygiene supplies, COVID-related supplies, clothing, winter gear, and so on. If you have need of other supplies and you are not sure if they are eligible, please reach out!
- d. VIRL Strat Planning Session - Campbell River
 - i. For those of you who have not yet noticed. The Vancouver Island Regional Library is holding a strategic planning session for Campbell River. We encourage you to reach out to the library if you are interested in contributing.
 1. Information can be found on the library website:
<https://virl.bc.ca/strategic-plan/>
 2. Virtual events on October 13 and 18
 3. In person event October 18, 6-8pm
- e. Peer Action Team initial call for interest - **CRDCEH ACTION ITEM**
 - i. There seems to be an increased interest in peer opportunities in the community in the last couple of years. When I say "peer" I am referring to work and/or recreation opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and/or substance use concerns. There are a number of agencies that are interested in having a discussion about how we can come together to support a community-wide peer coordinator who might support the following tasks: develop peer programs and source funding, work with multiple agencies to address their needs, support peers in accessing informal work and training opportunities, and support peers in transitioning from informal work into the workforce (if that is a path that they so choose).
 1. I have already started a list of agencies that I think may be interested. However, if your agency is interested in this discussion, please pop it in the chat or email me at info@crhousing.net to let me know.
 2. I will look at scheduling an initial meeting later this year.
- f. Youth Action Team final call for interest - **CRDCEH ACTION ITEM**



- i. Last month we asked for interested parties who would like to explore the topic of youth homelessness more. The intention would be to see if there is more we can be doing at the community level to respond to youth homelessness. We did not receive very much interest. We believe this is probably due to capacity concerns as we know that many agencies are struggling to recruit staff at this time.
 - 1. If you are interested, please let me know.
 - 2. If we have limited interest at this time, we may table this and revisit it next spring.
- g. *NEW - our most recent data indicates that social service providers know of 133 individuals experiencing homelessness in our community (please note that this is not an indication of every person experiencing homelessness in the community, it is only the ones that social service providers know of from our By-Name List - it does not include separate databases kept for select populations such as people experiencing homelessness related to domestic violence)

5. Rural and Remote Housing and Service Need Survey results - Emma Wallace (Rural Development Network) - 30 min

- a. Powerpoint included in email
- b. Please reach out to Emma at emmaw@ruraldevelopment.ca if you would like specific information related to your community or like to delve deeper into the data.
- c. Reports can be found here: <https://www.crhousing.net/newprojects>
- d. *NEW from CRDCEH - in the presentation, RDN suggested that these results might represent 65% of insecurely housed in our region (based on previous studies they have done). We would like to note that our region is significantly different from others that have completed "homelessness estimates" with RDN. The SRD is very rural, very remote, and many communities were not able to engage at all with the survey process. As such, we anticipate that these results (801 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness / housing insecure) are probably more like 5 or 10% of the population.
 - i. We encourage people to pair this data with census data (particularly core housing need), the SRD Housing Needs Report, the Campbell River Point in Time Count, and City of CR reports related to affordable housing and housing needs. This will help give a more realistic picture of the actual numbers.
 - ii. Please note that housing insecurity and 'hidden homelessness' are extremely difficult to quantify.

6. Emergency Weather Shelter update - Sue Moen - 5 min

- a. The Anglican Church has agreed to host
- b. Hopefully November 1 to March 31
- c. Will be a temporary shelter (as long as everything goes well!) - meaning that it will be open every night and not just open for certain weather conditions. This is the preference of BC Housing



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- d. Still looking for more staff members interested. We are able to flexible in this work opportunity and training is available. Please contact Sue if you are interested sue.moen@salvationarmy.ca
 - i. Stay tuned for a hiring fair and training dates
 - e. Also exploring peer work opportunities for folks to support the shelter throughout the winter
- 7. Cultural Training Videos/Workshop-in-a-Box - Tanille Johnston, (Maya'xala) - 5 min**
- a. As part of the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Grant, Maya'xala Culturally Centered Home Studies and Integrated Services is creating a workshop-in-a-box
 - b. There will be three learning areas, each with a short video. The video will be followed up by a circle with some question prompts and instructions about how to facilitate a circle in a good way.
 - c. The idea is that this program is lead by allies so we encourage non-Indigenous people to reach out to take the train-the-training piece
 - d. These trainers will learn about each session and how to safely facilitate discussions around this
 - e. Stefanie - the intention was to create a very accessible way for employers and community groups to access Indigenous cultural training. If large employers are able to have one or two people trained to facilitate these sessions then they will become great tools for extended lunch and learn sessions or professional development opportunities
 - f. Please reach out to Stefanie or Tanille mayaxala.cchsis@gmail.com if you are interested in learning how to facilitate these mini-workshops
- 8. Good news stories, updates, and discussions - from the floor, as time permits!**
- a. I'm sorry! No time today!
 - b. Stefanie offered to hold off on sending the minutes until Friday afternoon. This will give people a chance to provide updates via email to be included in the minutes.
 - c. ***NEW** - MP Rachel Blaney's office - New Horizons for Seniors Program is taking funding applications until November 1, 2022. This program funds projects that empower seniors in their communities and contribute to improving their health and well-being. Eligible organizations can apply for up to \$25,000 for projects that are led by seniors and are volunteer-based.
 - i. I encourage you to check out the program details to see if you are eligible for funding and to share with anyone you know who may be eligible.
 - ii. You can find the full program details here:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/new-horizons-seniors.html>
 - d. ***NEW** - Community Integration Specialists with Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction are looking for interest in social and health services who would like to partner on an evening outreach team.
 - i. Suggestion is for a late-night shift (maybe 6 hours such as 5-11pm)
 - ii. Idea is to start with one time and then regroup to discuss successes, challenges, and whether or not it is worthwhile to continue on a regular or occasional basis



- iii. Please contact Kellie Moriarty if interested: Kellie.Moriarty@gov.bc.ca
- e. ***NEW** - City of Campbell River - On Monday night, City Council adopted Bylaw No. 3876 which prohibits the homeless from sheltering in Nunns Creek Park except for the area of the Park off Homewood Road formally used as a BMX track (1299 Homewood Rd.).
 - i. The City will be proceeding with locating a portable toilet off Homewood Road and bringing water service to this location. We will be encouraging people to shelter there and hope that these services give people more reasons to shelter there.
 - ii. Feedback to the Coalition from community health and social service partners includes:
 - 1. Water and toilets are a good start
 - 2. Safety of individuals camping there should be of great concern considering recent behaviour/violence directed towards people experiencing homelessness
 - 3. Flooding will be a concern in the winter months
 - 4. The area on Homewood does not provide buffer from wind and rain and will expose campers to the elements
 - 5. Given the concerns, it is not expected that a significant number of individuals will re-locate to that site.
- f. ***NEW** - Chamber of Commerce - October 12 and 15th for voting. Information can be found here:
<https://www.campbellriver.ca/your-city-hall/elections/2022-local-government-election>
 - i. Please encourage your readers, listeners and viewers to take the time to research the candidates and vote. As the fortunate citizens in a democratic country, it is our responsibility. Municipal elections are arguably the most important as decisions by the municipal representatives can affect nearly every aspect of our daily lives.
 - ii. The Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce, The Campbell River Mirror and the Tidemark Theatre Society co-hosted a series of debates for all candidates vying for office in the Strathcona Regional District, the City of Campbell River and SD72 in the BC Municipal Election on October 15, 2022.
 - iii. Below are the ALL CANDIDATE DEBATE VIDEO LINKS:
 - a. Electoral Area Directors Debate - <https://youtu.be/GBxuGjbWtMc>
 - b. City of Campbell River Mayoral Debate - <https://youtu.be/66ml7KbIM5M>
 - c. City of Campbell River Councillor Debate ONE - <https://youtu.be/jod9Yy4tTzo>
 - d. City of Campbell River Councillor Debate TWO - https://youtu.be/h9-Zyby_5h4
 - e. City of Campbell River Councillor Debate THREE - <https://youtu.be/6xNEaBr13Qo>
 - f. SD72 School Trustee Debate - <https://youtu.be/zR2pW6FEBSU>



9. Next community meeting - November 3 - noon