



## **CRDCEH**

Community Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 7, 2024

12:00-1:00pm - Virtual via Zoom

### **1. Attendance:**

- a. Stefanie Hendrickson - CRDCEH
- b. Linda Dwyer - Hama?elas Community Kitchen volunteer / Community member
- c. Susan Doyle - Community member
- d. Paul Bertrand - Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- e. Steve Joyce and Students - Timberline Secondary
- f. Sean Smyth - City of Campbell River
- g. Heather Gordon Murphy - Downtown Campbell River BIA
- h. Madison Stewart - Strathcona Community Health Network, Strathcona Regional District
- i. Elle Brovold - City of Campbell River
- j. Kristi Schwanicke - Vancouver Island Mental Health Society
- k. Sue Moen - CR Community Action Team
- l. Serena Klaver - City of Campbell River
- m. Joëlle Samson - CR Library
- n. Mary Catherine Williams - United Way
- o. Chrystal Arnet - Habitat for Humanity
- p. Jeff Ford - City of Campbell River
- q. Jessica Graham - Campbell River Family Services
- r. Candace Lindhout - Salvation Army
- s. Sheena Campbell - Island Health
- t. Sue Reid - Rivercity Inclusion
- u. Lisa McHaffie - Infrastructure Canada / Community member
- v. Monique Bois - MP Rachel Blaney's office
- w. Del-Rae Young - Community member
- x. Michaela Arruda - Campbell River Community Foundation
- y. Ian Baikie - Hama?elas Community Kitchen / Rotary Club
- z. Tracy and Kellie - Income Assistance
- aa. Lucas Schuller - Hwy 19 Concerts Spirit Square
- bb. Audrey Wilson - Laichwiltach Family Life Society
- cc. Grace Mukadzambo - John Howard Society
- dd. "Intake" - ?
- ee. Unknown phone number

### **2. Land Acknowledgement**

### **3. Timberline Secondary *Global Issues Club* (Steve Joyce and Students)**

- a. Mr Joyce with his students introduced the Global Issues Club. The meeting discussed an initiative to create a small, safe stove for homeless people, designed to contain flames



and heat. Steve suggested the possibility of distributing these stoves in collaboration with service providers but identified that more conversations needed to happen with Bylaw and Fire to ensure that this sort of effort was appropriate.

- b. In the meantime, the club was interested in other ideas of ways they might be able to get involved:
  - i. Serena, a planner with the City of Campbell River, expressed interest in collaborating, noting that the City is always looking for more ways to get youth involved in community.
  - ii. Michaela, the Executive Director of the Campbell River Community Foundation, mentioned the Neighbourhood Small Grant Stream of up to \$500 that is open now. She noted this may be a good grant stream for students wishing to undertake a small project  
<https://crfoundation.ca/grant-types/neighbourhood-small-grants/>
  - iii. Jeff, the Director of Community Safety with the City shared about a community safety and wellness plan project, noting that they would like to have some youth consultation.
  - iv. Chrystal Arnet with Habitat for Humanity mentioned that there may be ways for youth to get involved with Habitat and invited Mr. Joyce to reach out
  - v. Ian Baikie with Hama?elas Community Kitchen mentioned that youth 17+ (?) are able to volunteer at the Community Kitchen - dinner service and invited Mr. Joyce to reach out to him to discuss
  - vi. Stefanie with the Coalition offered to pull together a small group, if requested, to further explore the conversation about youth involvement in community

#### **4. City of Campbell River - HEARTH Village & overnight camping (Elle Brovold & Jeff Ford)**

- a. Elle discussed the Hearth Project, a collaborative effort between BC Housing and the city of Campbell River to address homelessness. The project involves constructing 40 units of temporary housing at 1299 Homewood Road, which will provide individual sleeping and storage units, as well as shared amenities and washroom spaces. Elle explained that the project aims to transition people from unsheltered living into permanent housing, with the ultimate goal of reducing encampments and increasing access to shelter beds. The project is currently in the community engagement phase, with construction planned for the spring, and an opening date TBD.
- b. The selection process for the temporary housing units will prioritize residents of Campbell River, individuals 19+, those ready to transition into housing, and those with specific needs.
- c. The Village will be staffed 24/7 and provide at least two daily meals. An operator has not yet been contracted to manage the Village. The facility will work with individuals to provide referrals to healthcare and other community services, access to skills training and employment assistance, and amenity space for counseling or medical treatments. The site will have secure entry, be fenced and have security cameras. Residents will have to sign a program agreement and neighbors will be informed on who to call if there are concerns. The project aims to reduce the amount of time someone spends homeless, increase the number of people finding permanent homes, and decrease the number of



people returning to shelters or outdoor encampments. The public engagement process will begin with a community open house on March 20th.

- d. Stefanie offered the Coalition's help to engage people with lived experience of homelessness to mitigate unintended consequences.
- e. Sue raised concerns about the criteria for assessing people coming out of the sheltering system, particularly for couples and indigenous people who may face barriers to accessing shelters.
  - i. Elle clarified that BC Housing will lead the process for the new village, with criteria to be set based on best practices and experience. When asked about the possibility of couples being accommodated in the units, Elle explained that BC Housing and an operator will make such a decision. Pets will be allowed.
- f. Kudos were given to the City on their rapid response and action on this initiative. Staff were praised for their hard work.
- g. Jeff then took over the discussion assuring attendees that those currently camping at 1299 Homewood Rd would not be displaced during the construction phase. However, once the Village is open, a new option will need to be found, recognizing that provincial case law requires that there be a place (or multiple places) where folks are allowed to shelter overnight in cities.
- h. Jeff discussed the Coalition's support to date of providing best practices and information around encampments. He emphasized the importance of empathy and a human-centered approach. He outlined the need for conversations with Coalition partners about potential locations and strategies for ensuring community safety and the safety of those who are unsheltered.
- i. Stefanie proposed facilitating a focus group conversation with frontline workers and those with lived experiences to gather insights. Stefanie will follow-up with Jeff and front-line service providers to pursue a smaller working group around this topic
- j. Jeff offered his email for community-safety related concerns or queries or for any feedback related to the relocation of an overnight shelter area and other encampment concerns or offerings - [jeff.ford@campbellriver.ca](mailto:jeff.ford@campbellriver.ca)
- k. Elle asked that people reach out to the City with questions or if they hear any chatter that the City may need to get ahead of. [thevillage@campbellriver.ca](mailto:thevillage@campbellriver.ca) is monitored by multiple staff members. More info and FAQs can be found here: <https://getinvolved.campbellriver.ca/>

## 5. Attendee-led Updates and Discussions Roundtable

- a. Sheena announced Sue Moen as the new coordinator of the Campbell River Community Action Team (CAT). She also brought up the increase in toxic drug related deaths recently and encouraged people to access harm reduction services and ensure that their friends, family, and clients are aware of resources available to them.
- b. Mary Catherine provided an update on seniors' housing, mentioning Madison's (Strathcona Community Health Network) initiative to have focussed discussions about affordable housing for seniors. She also mentioned that the Seniors' Network is look at



next steps to support seniors in the community and is feeling hopeful for their new direction

- c. Michaela brought up the October 2024 Vital Signs publication. She asked that if anyone has used the previous Vital Signs publication and appreciated it, if they could provide a testimonial as to the impact of the publication. [marruda@crfoundation.ca](mailto:marruda@crfoundation.ca)

**Additionally:**

- d. SRD Poverty Reduction Plan - If you'd like your input heard, please complete this survey by March 31st. <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/Z7NWSXF>

**6. CRDCEH Operational Update**

a. Strategic Planning

- i. We are well into our strategic planning work with Resilience Planning, which has led us into some interesting discussions about our organizational structure. This has included engagement with:
  1. Other similar entities on Vancouver Island
  2. The Coalition's Coordinating Circle
  3. The broader Coalition community
  4. Folks in leadership and front-line positions in the community
- ii. We are also able to draw on learnings from our engagement with people with lived and living experience of homelessness that we undertook with the System Mapping project to better understand the current gaps and pressures on these folks.
- iii. We are now looking at the best options to support a renewed purpose and vision. We are currently considering whether this means exploring means for annual administrative funding so that we can pursue more impactful operations, possibly as a non-profit organization.
- iv. This is an exciting time for the Coalition and a time for renewed vision. Please be patient as we navigate our next steps.

**7. Next meeting April 4, 2024**

a. **IN PERSON - Campbell River Library - Noon to 1pm**

- i. Please note: As Stefanie will just be returning from time away, this will likely be an informal meeting of mostly networking and roundtable updates. Please feel free to bring extra staff members for a meet-n-greet opportunity!