



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

CRDCEH

Community Meeting Agenda

Thursday, Dec 1, 2022

12:00-1:00 via Zoom

1. In Attendance:

- a. Michele Vanderwoude - John Howard Society (host)
- b. Stefanie Hendrickson - CRDCEH
- c. Joelle Samson - CR Library
- d. Paul Bertrand - Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- e. Heather Brownhill - Legal Advocacy
- f. Mary Catherine Williams - United Way
- g. Danielle Hoogland - North island College
- h. Sue Moen - Salvation Army
- i. Hayley Tomlinson - MLA Babchuk's Office
- j. Gwen Donaldson - Community Action Team
- k. Ian Baikie - Hama?Elas Community Kitchen
- l. Azalea Milwid - Strathcona Regional District
- m. Donna Desmet - North Island Employment Foundations Society (NIEFS)
- n. Jason Locke - City of Campbell River
- o. Jeff West - Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North
- p. Melony Larre - Sasamans Society
- q. Kaitlyn Nohr - Island Health
- r. Sandra Rushton -
- s. Shaun Koopman - Strathcona Regional District
- t. Sue Moen - Salvation Army
- u. Andrew Duarte- John Howard Society
- v. Madison Stewart - Strathcona Community Food Hub
- w. Michaela Arruda - Campbell River Community Foundation
- x. Marie-Michele Chezzi - John Howard Society
- y. Tracy Armstrong - Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
- z. Lucas Schuller - Spirit Square
- aa. Kristi Schwanicke - Vancouver Island Mental Health Society (VIMHS)
- bb. Taryn O'Flanagan - VIMHS
- cc. Shawn Decaire - Kwesa Place (Laichwiltach Family Life Society - LFLS)

2. Land Acknowledgement - (Michele Vanderwoude - host)

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 do ask that this meeting does not devolve into being a venting place for lengthy



frustrations. If anyone would like further information we invite you to reach out to our coordinator at info@crhousing.net

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, or an action item that you would like to propose, we invite you to reach out to the coordinator

- a. Furthermore, there are action teams that work behind the scenes on specific topics. If you are interested in engaging further, please contact 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?

- Danielle Hoogland - Community Engagement Liaison at North Island College

1. Coalition Operational Updates (Stefanie Hendrickson)

a. Housing Security Event

- i. We co-hosted an event with the Campbell River Community Foundation related to affordable housing development. Over 100 people attended including planners, developers, land owners, Indigenous communities, funders, political leaders from all levels of government, municipal staff, non-profit agencies interested in exploring the topic of housing development, and more!
- ii. Thank you to the CRCF for stepping into the housing conversation. It was a pleasure to work with them!

b. PiT Count - April 26, 2023

- i. The Point in Time Count is a 24 hour period where we try to survey as many folks experiencing homelessness as possible, both adults and youth. For this survey, "homelessness" is defined as people with no fixed address (this could include people in jails, hospitals, or treatment facilities on the day of the count), people sleeping unsheltered, in vehicles, or in abandoned buildings, people staying in emergency shelters, families with hotel vouchers in lieu of shelter, those staying at transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, people temporarily staying with someone else because they are without a place of their own.
- ii. These are "the stats" - this is very important data for our community. It is the data most referred to and used by BC Housing when looking at areas of community need. As such, this is an all-hands-on-deck sort of day!
- iii. We'll be working with any and all workers with outreach capacity to do the "street count" and any and all agencies who do in-reach services or work with clients that they can call to survey over the phone on the day of the count. We also hope to engage schools again this year.
- iv. We also hope to have peers help with surveying and we have honouraria available to support that work.
- v. We'll also need some volunteers who are comfortable and have experience interacting with people experiencing homelessness to support surveying at busy locations (such as Hama?elas and Kwesa Place).
- vi. April 28 - By-Name List / housing application event - two days later, we are going to host an event with BC Housing to try to get folks signed up on housing applications, if they are not already, connect people to services, and get more



individuals signed up for our By-Name List (which is a list of known individuals experiencing homelessness in the community including reasons why they entered or exited homelessness. It is considered to be a key tool in the prevention and reduction of homelessness - in Campbell River we are very early in our By-Name List journey and it is not yet a reliable tool for us).

1. We will be using the PiT Count day to inform people about the housing application event two days later.
- vii. Please save the date for these events, if it's relevant to you. Please share these dates around your offices.

2. Q'Waxsem Place Update (Kristi Schwanicke) - 10 min

- a. 50 unit supportive housing
- b. Almost 2 years of operating Q'Waxsem
- c. 30 individuals who moved in two years ago continue to live here
- d. 7 current tenants have moved from Rosebowl to Q'Waxsem
- e. A few folks have flowed into other housing opportunities
- f. A few folks have transferred into complex care (seniors in complex care situations)
- g. Many tenants are senior and many tenants are Indigenous
- h. In hindsight there should have been more accessible units built
- i. Between Rosebowl and Q'Waxsem we house 12 couples - there are often not housing solutions available for couples
- j. Not many neighbourhood complaints anymore
- k. People get housed through a placement committee after people complete a supportive housing application
 - i. Connect and prioritize folks who need a vulnerability assessment
 - ii. Then invitations are made based on information present
- l. Question - Mary Catherine - What is the impact on the neighbourhood
 - i. Kristi - there are definitely going to be impacts to 50 unhoused individuals moving into a neighbourhood
 1. Sometimes the problems are able to be addressed: for example, in the summer, noise complaints were coming in. It was due to windows being open during the summer and we were able to help address that
 2. Also important to realize that not everyone who is in the neighbourhood is a resident of Q'Waxsem. Some of the folks are other people experiencing homelessness who happen to be sheltering at nearby places
 3. If we look at other neighbourhoods, they also have similar problems
 4. If there are concerns with any of our tenants, please contact us - our tenants commit to being good neighbours and we take that very seriously and work with tenants to make things work
 5. For bylaw and police issues we ask those be directed to those entities
- m. Comment Marie-Michele - wanted to acknowledge that Q'Waxsem is doing a really great job based on my experience in other communities. VIMHS is doing a great job!
- n. Question Stefanie - What sort of programming do you have?
 - i. Kristi - Once per week we do a litter pick up day with tenants



1. Also run a kitchen program - peers help onsite cook in kitchen - very popular program and tenants really like it
 2. Partnerships with mental health and substance use - Income Assistant, community resource connection, SUIT/ACT, Community Health Services (medications, wound care - especially for seniors), North Island Medical (nurse practitioner/physician onsite weekly), onsite smudging and drumming for staff and tenants
 3. Garden and other Indigenized spaces on sight - is sometimes used for ceremony
- 3. John Howard Society Housing Program Update** (Michele Vanderwoude) - 10 min
- a. Please see attachment as to what sorts of housing supports John Howard Society offers
- 4. Sasamans Society, Justice Support Worker Update** (Melony Larre) - 10 min
- a. New position as of January 2022 - helps people experiencing homelessness (both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous) navigate social service, justice, and health care systems
 - b. Funding was initially through the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Grant but this grant funding is coming to an end
 - c. Please reach out to Melony if you know of any funding opportunities
 - d. Currently have 50 individuals on file list
 - i. Work very closely with Island Health teams
 - ii. Help folks fill out treatment applications
 - iii. Make connections between agencies and between clients and agencies
 - iv. Clients provide feedback that this position really makes a difference in their life
 - e.
- 5. Good news stories, updates, and discussions** - from the floor, as time permits!
- a. Sue - update on warming centre
 - i. We were able to activate last night (wednesday night) but not the day before (where staffing and security were not available)
 - ii. Wednesday night - City staff, security guards, and 4 staff ran the warming centre. Used by approximately 30 people throughout the night
 - iii. Previously, organized by the SRD and now the City has stepped forward to organize these
 - iv. Lots of offers of support to volunteer/staff future activations
 - v. FYI - Folks are looking for pants - please drop off at Kwesa Place and let them know they're for the warming centre
 - vi. Marie-Michele - spoke to 3 clients this morning used warming centre and thought it was very well run
 - vii. Mary Catherine - there is some frustration with the threshold for EMBC - there seems to be room for advocacy on this issue
 1. There have been some conversations off-line about this
 - viii. Jason - There will be warming centre tonight from 10pm-7am as well - we are also prepared to open it up tomorrow, if possible based on EMBC directive



1. The City will be opening up a warming centre in December on nights when threshold is met
 2. Unfortunately, there is not space available at the community centre on Saturday
 3. Question - is there a space in Harbourside opening up
 - a. Sue - Laichwiltach Family Life Society has set up an operating agreement with BC Housing to open a shelter
 - i. However, there is funding, renovations, insurance, regulations that must be met
 - ii. The hope is that it would shelter 24 people - will not be enough room for everyone when it opens
 - b. Jason Locke - the City has hired a new Planner II position starting soon at the City. She has lots of experience with social planning
 - c. Leanne McIntee - post-meeting update via email "I'm sad to say our MOUHSS is having footwear issues. I am unsure when he will be out again but he almost went out of complete commission; I am working at this but wanted you all to know that we will not be running next week and possible the week after. SO SORRY for the inconvenience. So grateful for KWESA! I'm still available for supports, etc and will be out and about. Breakfast will still be running and we may be out doing the Get The Point Program.... Please let clients and other folks know if I have missed anyone...."
- 6. Next community meeting - February 2, 2023 - noon (No mtg in January)**