



COALITION TO
END
HOMELESSNESS
CAMPBELL RIVER & DISTRICT

CRDCEH

Monthly Meeting Agenda

Thursday March 4, 2020

12:00-1:00

1. Welcome and land acknowledgement (Pat, host)

- a. Today we are zooming in from the traditional and unceded territories of the Ligwilda'xw People. I am standing on the territory of the K'omoks First Nations. We honour our relationship with these First Nations, the Homalco First Nations and all other First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples who reside in these territories.

Attendance:

- Stefanie Hendrickson - CRDCEH Coordinator
- Val K. - CRHISS
- Ian baikie - Volunteer Hama?elas Community Kitchen
- Hayley Dunbar - Nursing student, course placement
- Heather Murphy - BIA
- Andrey Eagan - Nursing student, course placement
- Melissa Giles - BC Rent Bank
- Sue Bukta -
- Marc Kitteringham - CR Mirror
- Cleo Corbett - Senior Planner, City of Campbell River
- Gwen Donaldson - CAT
- Pat McKenna - Habitat for Humanity NI
- Mary Ruth Snyder - CR & District Chamber of Commerce
- Heather Brownhill - Legal Advocate
- Sean Smyth - introduced himself as newly elected to City council not yet sworn in
- Melissa Pelletier - Nursing student
- Don Kattler - MHRP
- Taryn O'Flanagan - VIMHS
- Sue Moen - Salvation Army
- JHSNI
- Kristi Schwanicke - VIMHS
- Rachel Blaney - MP
- Vaery Puetz - CRNITS
- Andrew - JHSNI
- Rosanne Lyster - VIHA
- Dan Wickman - Campbell River Community Foundation
- Libby King - Strathcona Community Health Network
- Shaun Koopman - Emergency Planning, Strathcona Regional District



- Christine Colbert - CR & District Division of Family Practice
- Mary Catherine Williams - Volunteer CR
- Linda Nagle - City of Campbell River
- Candy -
- Michelle Downey -
- Sarah DS - AVI
- Kaitlyn Nohr - VIHA
- S/Sgt Wayne Baier - RCMP

2. BC Rent Bank - Melissa Giles, Project Lead with BC Rent Bank (10 minutes)

- a. Province of BC funds to create a BC Rent Bank as a homelessness prevention initiative within the province. Vancity is the holder of the BC Rent Bank funds.
- b. Vancity works with existing rent banks - 17 currently. We estimate that about 86% of renters in the province have access to a rent bank.
- c. Rent bank is a homelessness prevention initiative. We want to keep people housed. Low to moderate income earners. It is financial assistance in a repayable loan. Lots of seniors.
- d. Interest free loan paid over 6-24 months. Can be for rent in arrears, relocation (security deposit, etc...), upcoming rent, etc...
- e. They also help people access complex systems and access other benefits that they might be eligible for. We don't want to burden people with more financial debt if there is another solution out there.
- f. Rent Banks are nestled within non-profits. We help non-profits with system supports. Supply resources to new Rent Bank sites. Client management system provided to the non-profit to manage case-files, etc... We support rent banks in what they are doing. We also have some money available for seed funding and some operating dollars for years to come.
- g. There is financial commitment by local organizations who operate a Rent Bank.
- h. Question from Dan Wickman - "where is closest Rent Bank to CR?" Nanaimo is closest currently. And "Do you coordinate or communicate with any local organizations at this time?" Last spring we were starting to have conversation and then COVID happened and hit pause.
- i. Question from Valery Puetz - what is the cost of smaller rent banks? Sunshine Coast for example was about \$60,000 per year. Vancouver is more like \$150,000 per year. That includes new allocation of loan capital every year. Rent bank sites need to also pay staff, administration (lights, office space, etc...) 75% of loans tend to get paid back. Groups tend to need about 40% of funding from BC Rent Bank. Additional funding can come from municipalities, property management companies, united way, and other grants, etc...
- j. Question from Sean Smyth - "is there interest on loans?" No, they are interest free loans

3. PiT update (Stef) - Coalition Coordinator to update (5 minutes)



- a. Point in Time Homelessness Count planning is on track. Working on finalizing maps
- b. Shelters can expect communication from Stef regarding best time on April 8 for HSABC staff to come and “train” shelter staff on process and drop off surveys.
- c. Rosebowl will be ‘home-base’ in an event tent outside
- d. Organizations can expect communication from Stef to finalize list of outreach workers available to participate in count. Shift is maximum 6.5 hours.

4. People with Lived/Living Experience (Stef)

- a. Proposed committee to create a Peer Advisory Working Group
- b. Stef has spoken with Urban Indigenous Housing and Wellness Coalition on the prospect of collaborating to create a Peer Advisory Committee. There is initial interest from UIHWC to be involved with this.
- c. This is proposed as a “first step” to include PWLE (People with Lived/Living Experience). The Coalition would then like to move into further involvement of peers.
- d. Coalition Leadership Team (LT) proposes a committee be made up to decide on the make-up, recruitment, best practices, facilitation, etc... of a Peer Advisory Committee.
- e. Coalition members asked if they were interested and following people replied yes to joining the committee:
 - i. Alynne, Sasamans (representing UIHWC)
 - ii. Candace, JHSNI (representing Coalition LT)
 - iii. Sarah, AVI
 - iv. Don Kattler (MHRP) and Gwen Donaldson (CAT) both put their names forward as having peer experience and being able to help guide this process.

Stef to follow-up with committee members...goal is to have a Peer Advisory Committee in place by May of this year.

5. Update from Nursing Students - Hayley Dunbar & Andrea Eagan (2 minutes)

- a. Survey update
 - i. We have started sending around surveys and many of you have responded. Thank you so much.
 - ii. If you have not received a survey and you would like one, please let us know.
 - iii. As a note, surveys are confidential and personal information will stay within Coalition.

6. Valery Puetz - Eagle Harbour update

- a. Development permit application is in and doing rounds at City Hall. We hope to move forward with some action really soon.

7. City of Campbell River update - Cleo (5 minutes)



- a. Eagle Harbour - 55 unit development. Both second-stage and affordable housing. 5 story mixed-use building on Fir Street. DP expected to go to council in April.
 - b. Q'waxsem from a City perspective - wrapping up a few things there. First CAC meeting is tomorrow. Bus stop being installed out front.
 - c. Impact assessment work - preparing a process to measure the impact that opening Q'waxsem and Rosebowl have had on people who frequent the downtown
 - d. Expect report to Council on Housing Growth shortly - will send via Stef at Coalition - What sort of housing diversity, variety, density should we have to accommodate our growth? Analyzing the Urban Containment Boundary. How do we make housing overall more affordable and accessible for a diverse population?
 - e. Lately there have been lots of delegations to council from non-profits - this is great for better communication and I encourage organizations to continue to do so. Well done with this!
 - f. There will be a lot of COVID recovery funding that we can access as a community. Some grant updates include:
 - i. Get the Point community clean-up program
 1. Hoping for some Civil Forfeiture funds
 - ii. Community Housing Fund - BC Housing - our community could benefit from mixed-rental housing we saw this in housing needs assessment. This could be a potential next BC Housing application? Start thinking!
 - g. Shaun Koopman - Emergency Services SRD - not only are we seeing a lot of senior government grants coming available but they are also due quickly. Short application period!
 - i. Sean Smyth is hoping that council will support as many as we can!
 - h. Libby King - SRD Health & Wellness - It speaks for the need for "ready-to-go" projects as well
 - i. Question for Cleo - the Community Housing Fund - are we looking for City to apply for this? Or a community partner, non-profit, etc...? Cleo's answer - more speaking to a community partner. The City does not have a particular project in mind at this time but might be able to help with supporting this if something comes forward.
 - ii. Comment to Cleo - Mary Ruth Snyder - rent and housing costs in SRD have gone up 50% in last three years. People are really struggling when they do find a rental they can't afford anything else. Just want to make sure that doesn't get lost in the conversations around housing.
 1. Sean has heard this concern a lot during his campaign.
- 8. Province of BC homelessness response funding for governments (Stef or Pat) -**
The Coalition has sent a letter to Mayor and Council to ask for the creation of a



collaborative committee to guide an application for the Strengthening Communities' Services funds.

9. Good news story - Vancouver Island Mental Health Society Update

- a. 580 Dogwood - Kristi (5 minutes) - Q'waxsem Place is fully tenanted with 50 residents. It's going really well. Everyone is really grateful to have a beautiful roof over their heads.
- b. Rosebowl 2.0 has a small extension (March 31 - hoping to extend further, just waiting for confirmation from BC Housing) to retenant another 20 folks experiencing homelessness. That is happening this week and into next week. By the end of next week 70 people housed!
- c. Numbers in Hama?elas have not declined. Ian wondering about meals at supportive housing units?
 - i. There is a continental breakfast and hot meal nightly. It has been full-action this week. 70 meals each breakfast and night. We expect people will still access community resources as well.
 - ii. Sue asked about communal spaces
 1. Kristi's answer - Most people take meals to their rooms. However we do have COVID safety plans in place for communal spaces.

10. Reminder from MP Rachel Blaney's office - if any Coalition member agencies are ever applying for or considering applying for federal funds, Rachel would like to know about it and her office is happy to assist any way they can.

- a. Letters of support also available
- b. Also, please let Coalition know so that we can support with letters of support, etc...

11. Coalition has an HSABC account - (Stef) - can be accessed by our member and advisory organizations for webinars and training opportunities.

- a. The Coalition has an HSABC account that Coalition members can use if they don't have their own account. HSABC provides lots of training/webinars. Many of them are front-line related.
- b. Contact Stef if interested in using our access.

12. Social Media - Are you following the Coalition on Facebook and Instagram?

13. Newsletter - If you are not receiving our new once-monthly e-newsletter, please email us to let us know that you would like to be added. Also, please check your 'spam' account if you have not noticed these newsletters come through.

14. Melissa Pelletier - thanks for letting me be involved as a practicum student with the Coalition. I am also in the market for a job, if anyone is looking! Shared info in Zoom chat.



- 15. Libby** - Housing needs assessment work going on in Gold River, Tahsis, etc... it is also becoming unaffordable to live in these communities. These communities don't have a housing non-profit. Just in case anyone is interested in expanding into other regional areas. If you are interested, there are people who want to connect, contact Libby
- 16. Sue - Extreme Weather Response program has ceased.**

 - a. We are down a full time staff person so at this time we cannot staff the shelter at all. This may have some impact on other agencies. Would like to start conversation on different model for next year. Location is always challenging.
 - b. Also, applications are open for second stage transitional housing for April 1. 5 available units geared towards people leaving a recovery program. Send Sue message for more details
- 17. Mary Catherine Williams** - group of us working on food insecurity. Just an FYI for the Coalition members.
- 18. Next meeting - the first Thursday of the month at Noon (April 1)**