



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Campbell River organizations in need of donations to support homeless amid COVID-19 crisis**

*The Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness (CRDCEH) is working with local organizations to provide resources and support to the at-risk homeless population in the fight against COVID-19.*

CAMPBELL RIVER - March 27, 2020 - The Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness (CRDCEH) is urgently requesting donations to support the local homeless community amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The homeless population are 5-10 times more at risk of contracting COVID-19 than the general population because of their close proximity to one another, compromised health, and lack of access to resources including a home,” noted Dr Aaron Orkin, Public Health Physician.

Further, people experiencing homelessness have limited access to public washrooms and hand sanitation supplies. Food security is decreasing for vulnerable populations, with supporting organizations and non-profits scaling back food provisions due to reduced volunteer capacity.

“Many in this population have underlying health conditions such as diabetes, Hepatitis C and HIV, placing them at greater risk of death from COVID-19,” said Dr. Vic Jordan, Emergency Physician, Campbell River Hospital.

The CRDCEH have been convening daily updates of changes to social service

organizations and closures, along with a community resource list where people experiencing homelessness can access basic needs. They have also been mobilizing working groups to address key issues like access to water, food, sanitation supplies, and housing. Through these efforts, they have identified gaps in these provisions.

"A community can be measured on how it cares for its most vulnerable. We need the City of Campbell River and interest groups to act swiftly to house, support, protect and inform this vulnerable group," said Jordan.

With reduced capacity of organizations that typically support this population, the community is urged to support with either product or monetary donations. The items most in need are: Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves), cleaning supplies, new camping gear, new socks, hygiene products, food, and more. For a complete list of the organizations, items needed, and how to donate, please contact CRDCEH at [campbellriverhousing@gmail.com](mailto:campbellriverhousing@gmail.com).

### **About The Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness (CRDCEH)**

The Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness works as a collective to plan, coordinate, recommend and implement community responses to homelessness. Members and advisors of the Coalition agree to put aside the respective goals for their individual society, agency or association and wholeheartedly commit to collaborating on the priority needs of people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. To learn more about CRDCEH and our COVID-19 efforts go to [www.crhousing.net](http://www.crhousing.net)

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