

Homelessness Action Strategy for the Tri-Cities

Action Plan – 2009

Actions		Responsible	Accomplishments 2009
Action 1	<p>Promote and support the creation of the Tri-Cities Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Monitor completion of an MOU between BC Housing and the City of Coquitlam (target date March 31st 2009) and release of the Request for Proposals (target date June 30th, 2009; ◆ Participate in selection of the successful RFP proponent; ◆ Support the successful proponent in creating and implementing the project plan, including assisting with the public consultation process. 	Facilities Subcommittee	MOU between the City and BC Housing completed in Spring 2009. Release of RFP on hold pending assignment of provincial government funding. City continuing to lobby Minister of Housing to provide project development funding.
Action 2	Assist the Hope For Freedom Society with implementation of the Tri-Cities Mat Program at Northside Church Grace campus to bridge the gap between the completion of the CWW Mat Program on March 31 st , 2009 and the opening of the permanent shelter/transitional housing facility.	Facilities Subcommittee	Grace Church withdrew permission to use their facility for an interim shelter in Spring 2009. Coquitlam Council has requested that the Task Group work with Planning staff to develop an alternative interim shelter strategy. Interim report completed in November and submitted to City. "Interim Homeless Shelter Status Update" report submitted to Council on December 14 th
Action 3	Continue to support the operation of the EWR shelter at Trinity United Church	Ongoing	Ongoing
Action 4	Determine the need for an emergency shelter for women and children in the Tri-Cities not fleeing abuse.	Facilities Subcommittee	No action to date.

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Action 5	Develop a "Housing First" strategy for moving people homeless in the Tri-Cities direct from the street or shelter to distributed permanent housing, including identification of housing and support service requirements and barriers to implementation.	Facilities Subcommittee	The Task Group participated in Port Coquitlam's Mayor's Action Team on Homelessness (MATH). MATH is evolving into a non-profit society which intends to implement a "housing first" program in the Tri-Cities.
Action 6	Create a Tri-Cities "Community Addictions Strategy for Persons who are Homeless", as a collaborative multi-agency effort to increase access to addiction services for persons homeless in the Tri-Cities.	Detox-Mental Health Subcommittee	The "Community Addictions Strategy for Persons who are Homeless" was completed and published. Implementation of actions will begin in 2010.
Action 7	<p>Advocate with the four levels of government: federal, provincial, regional and municipal, to increase the supply of social and affordable housing. Work with other interest groups such as the Tri-Cities Housing Coalition and Metro Vancouver to increase advocacy impact.</p> <p>Promote the implementation of the Metro Vancouver Regional Housing Strategy (Nov '07) and achievement of Tri-Cities housing targets.</p> <p>Develop a report card for the Tri-Cities which rates progress in addressing homelessness, social housing needs, and affordability issues.</p>	Advocacy Subcommittee	<p>The Task Group supported the national affordable housing strategy campaign conducted by the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness.</p> <p>A Task Group representative attended the National Homelessness Conference in Calgary in February 2009.</p> <p>Carried out preliminary lobbying of the Tri-Cities municipal staff re an annual report card.</p>
Action 8	Determine the feasibility of conducting regular "Connect Days".	Services Subcommittee	Some of the services provided at Connect Day 2008 have been continued as an ongoing (distributed) monthly program.

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Action 9	Investigate options for providing medical and dental services for homeless persons.	Services Subcommittee	Activity is underway to implement a dental clinic at the Homeless Resource Centre. Anticipated clinic opening is Spring 2010.
Action 10	Continue to encourage cooperation between the municipalities of the Tri-Cities and cooperation of the municipalities with the Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to coordinate efforts to address homelessness in the sub-region.	Ongoing	The Task Group appeared twice (spring and fall) as delegations to each of the Tri-Cities municipal councils in 2009.
Action 11	<p>Conduct community outreach activities to inform, promote the benefits of and engage the community in addressing homelessness in the Tri-Cities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Add an “Addictions and Mental Health” component to the HTG website (addiction education, challenges to recovery etc.); ◆ Create a speakers bureau - experts on homelessness ready to speak to Chamber of Commerce, service organizations, schools, PAC’s, BIA’s, church groups etc.; ◆ Create handouts on topics of homelessness for raising community awareness; ◆ Develop a Powerpoint presentation on homelessness in the Tri-Cities and incorporate the HFFS video on homelessness in the Tri-Cities; 	<p>Detox-Mental Health subcommittee</p> <p>Advocacy Subcommittee</p> <p>Advocacy Subcommittee</p> <p>Advocacy Subcommittee</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>2 handouts were created – one for the general public and one for the business community (~ 750 copies distributed via Chamber of Commerce mailout)</p> <p>Completed. Inaugural presentation during HAW 2009.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Re-inaugurate “Seeing is Believing” luncheons – bi-monthly with invitations, develop a stronger follow up component; ◆ Make a presentation on the work of the Homelessness Task Group to Tri-Cities BIA’s ◆ Conduct an all-candidates briefing session on homelessness for the 2009 provincial election and future federal elections; ◆ Develop a Tri-Cities module on homelessness, mental health and addictions for SD 43 social justice classes, c/w an inventory of presenters; ◆ Broadcast and celebrate our successes – provide stories on a regular basis to the local media. 	<p>Services Subcommittee</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Advocacy Subcommittee</p> <p>Advocacy Subcommittee</p> <p>Advocacy Subcommittee</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>No action (in the absence of specific actions to request).</p> <p>All-candidates briefing session conducted in April 2009 for provincial election.</p> <p>No action to date.</p> <p>Stories developed for 2 persons formerly homeless in the Tri-Cities.</p>