

KAMLOOPS HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN

THANK-YOU KAMLOOPS !!!



December 2010

Thank you to each member of our blossoming community, you have all contributed to the formation and the success of the Homelessness Action Plan. So many people in Kamloops have contributed to the progress of the plan over the years, we would like to dedicate this issue to thanking you all.

The HAP is built on all of the experiences that everyone has brought to the table at the *Changing The Face Of Poverty* meetings, and on the lessons that everyone has learned through their organizations and their own lives. We thank you all for sharing the concerns that have led you to become involved in your community. All of the experiences that people have shared have helped to create a clearer understanding of the issues at hand; all of the concerns that people have expressed have helped to form an understanding of the urgency of the issues. The work that you all have been doing over the years has resulted in the 6 goals of the plan.

A large portion of the plan is based on the stories told by homeless people themselves, we thank them for sharing their real experiences, needs and goals. The HAP attempts to highlight these experiences, and we plan to remain constant in our attention to the real people who want, need, and deserve better housing. We encourage everyone to continue to share their valuable experiences and ideas about the goals of the plan as we develop focused strategies.

GOALS of the HAP

1 ASSESS AND ENHANCE LOCAL HOUSING

Establish Local Housing Board

2 PROVIDE HOUSING STABILITY

Promote Housing Support Agreements & Establish Resident Support Program

3 CONNECT PEOPLE

Improve Outreach & Network Services

4 BUILD LIFE SKILLS

5 IMPROVE FAIRNESS

Change laws, procedures, regulations & protocols

6 CREATE AND MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT

Improve workplace supports

A large portion of gratitude is owed to the group of individuals who contribute much attention to the details of the plan. The HAP Steering Committee is made up of: **BOB HUGHES**, ASK Wellness Centre, Executive Director. **BRENDA AYNSLEY**, United Way Thompson Nicola Cariboo, Executive Director. **DOUG SAGE**, Canadian Mental Health Association, Executive Director. **JENNIFER CASORSO**, City of Kamloops, Recreation Supervisor, Social & Community Development. **LOUISE RICHARDS**, Elizabeth Fry Society, Executive Director. **ATHENA SMITH**, Crime Prevention Coordinator, Kamloops Community Safety, & **DIANE STUART**, Kamloops United Church, PIT Stop Meal Program Coordinator. **JOHN TALBOTT** was the Facilitator for the HAP process, we would like to thank him for his guidance and input. We would also like to thank **DANALEE COATES** & **J.P. BAKER** for their tireless efforts in the formalization of the plan, we look forward to their ongoing involvement in the initiative. **AMY BERARD** is the HAP Research Assistant, she is currently working on updating the Kamloops Housing Inventory that was started by members of *Changing the Face of Poverty* such as Weiser House owner **NIKI DEVERELL**. The continued development of the inventory will form the basis for future research by the HAP Coordinator, the Local Housing Board and others. Thankyou all for your efforts!



A HOUSING FIRST STRATEGY

The Kamloops Homelessness Action Plan is a **Housing First** Strategy. A **Housing First** approach recognizes housing as a primary human need, and places permanent housing at the top of the list of priorities. Providing permanent housing can make it easier for people to find solutions to the ongoing stresses of homelessness, poverty, addictions, mental health, and abuse. While there will remain a necessity for shelter and transitional housing for individuals requiring supports, the housing first strategy recognizes that more long term solutions must be developed.

OUTREACH UNITED

The success of action plans in cities such as Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver have been dependent upon the development of individual solutions for the people who are hardest to house. Individual solutions for individual people can only be developed through relationship building on a one-on-one basis. These individual relationships are often instigated by **outreach workers** who find the homeless where they live, in the streets. We are happy to say that Kamloops' agencies with **outreach** have begun to meet weekly to share information that helps find one-size-fits-one solutions for the homeless and at-risk of homelessness in our community. We would like to thank the members of **Community Living BC, Interior Health, & ASK Wellness** who have been instrumental in the creation of this group. Please contact the HAP if your agency would like to send a representative to this meeting.

LOCAL HOUSING BOARD

Starting in January 2011 the HAP will begin information sessions with a **Local Housing Board Working Group** to begin to define a path to affordable housing in our community. The role of the **Local Housing Board** will also be partially defined with input from the Homelessness Action Plan Leadership Council and we would like to thank them all for dedicating their valuable time to the initiative.

MAIN CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

POVERTY
LACK OF HOUSING
MENTAL HEALTH
ADDICTIONS
ABUSE
CULTURAL BARRIERS
CRIMINALITY
LACK OF SKILLS
AGE
SOCIAL STIGMA

HAP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MP CATHY MCLEOD, MLA TERRY LAKE,
MLA KEVIN KRUEGER, CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON,
MAYOR PETER MILOBAR, KELLY FAWCETT,
PATSY BOURASSA, CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS,
NATHAN LANE, VIKTOR GUNDEL, RAY JOLICOEUR,
STEVE EARL, CATHY HAMILTON

THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF KAMLOOPS for endorsing the plan, and dedicating \$20,000.00 each year for 3 years to help with the formation of the Local Housing Board. The fact that the city is endorsing all 6 goals of the plan speaks to the momentum of the initiative and the ability of our community to respond to current needs.

THANKS TO YOU ALL, for staying informed and talking about the issues. Discussion of the issues is an important aspect of developing a response; talk about it with your friends, with your family, with the people you see on the street and with us.



For more information visit
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Call us any time to discuss our current initiatives such as the Local Housing Board, Housing Support Agreements, Employment Support Agreements, Outreach Worker Meetings, Housing and Life Skills training. Visit our developing website and check us out on Facebook too!

Together, we can end homelessness.