

## TOGETHER WE ARE ENDING HOMELESSNES... JOIN US & BE PART OF THE SOLUTION COMMUNITY FORUM APRIL 6TH 6-9 PM KAMLOOPS ALLIANCE CHURCH, 233 FORTUNE DR

It's FREE! Everyone is welcome! Take part in interactive activity **DISPLAYS** about homelessness, interact with **EXPERTS** in the community, enjoy a presentation from **MEL ROTHENBURGER** on the history of homelessness in Kamloops, and take part in Question & Answer **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**. Join us for an evening of sharing and learning about a major issue in our community!

Thanks to all the members of **CHANGING THE FACE OF POVERTY** for their ongoing involvement in the community, and with the HAP. The group meets regularly at 8:00am, the third Wednesday of every month at a community location. Discussions include concerns and solutions for persistent issues surrounding poverty, affordable housing and homelessness. Members represent all sectors of our community including agencies, societies, faith groups, business, landlords, non-profits and the city itself. Contact the HAP to confirm the next location.

**UNITED WAY PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE** - Long term change requires changes to policies. The HAP is involved in training sessions on instigating policy change through the United Way of the Lower Mainland. The Faculty for the sessions includes Elizabeth Cull - former BC Minister of Health, Brenda Eaton - Chair, BC Housing Management Commission, Ida Goodreau - former President and CEO Vancouver Coastal Health, Mike Harcourt - former BC Premier, and Liz Whynot - former President of BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre. If you have concerns about policy or ideas for policy projects let us know!

**KICC** - Kamloops Integrated Community Collaboration is a success thanks to the efforts of ASK Wellness, Community Living BC, and the Interior Health Street Nurses. Big thanks also to the Kamloops United Church for donating the meeting space. If your agency has Outreach, these meetings are for you, contact the HAP to find out more.



The HAP is learning from experiences in other communities. Pictured at left: CUPS mural (Calgary Urban Project Society) CUPS offers housing and supports and has recently partnered with the Calgary Homeless Foundation ([calgaryhomeless.com](http://calgaryhomeless.com)) to create the Rapid Exit Program, a housing first strategy for families and singles. ([cupscalgary.com/programs](http://cupscalgary.com/programs))

### GOALS of the HAP

- 1 ASSESS AND ENHANCE LOCAL HOUSING
- 2 PROVIDE HOUSING STABILITY
- 3 CONNECT PEOPLE
- 4 BUILD LIFE SKILLS
- 5 IMPROVE FAIRNESS
- 6 CREATE AND MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT



The **KAMLOOPS HOUSING BOARD** will be utilized to help establish and communicate the affordable housing needs of the community by bringing together information and expertise from the City of Kamloops, non-profit organizations, service providers, businesses and citizens at large. The membership will include all sectors of the community that have direct interests in housing and housing related matters. The Local Housing Board will be built on models from other Canadian communities and tailored to suit the specific challenges faced in Kamloops.

The primary purpose of the Local Housing Board will be to collect, analyze and distribute housing information to the membership to facilitate informed decision making. Together with the support of the City of Kamloops and the Social Planning Council, the Local Housing Board will become an avenue to discuss recent trends, to evaluate supply and demand, to establish community priorities in an open forum and to discuss legislative reform where deemed necessary. Some additional items that may be addressed by the Local Housing Board include, but are by no means limited to:

- o Inform interested parties on local housing matters
- o Create & maintain a housing registry
- o Establish community based methods to protect & enhance local housing stock
- o Recommend changes to the RTA & other legislation or policy

The Local Housing Board is anticipated to comprise a diverse group able to provide intimate knowledge of changes occurring in the social and affordable housing landscape of our community. This group will form a single source of information that will allow all participants to obtain the data and facts needed to develop successful systems and policies. The data will be made available to the board, and other groups, with the goal of improving the provision of housing and housing resources in Kamloops.



[www.kentwong.ca](http://www.kentwong.ca)

Thanks to all those individuals who have been able to give us their informed opinions for the development of the Kamloops Housing Board. Pictured clockwise from left; Tangie Genshorek - HAP, Amy Berard - HAP, Nicole Beauregard - City of Kamloops, Blake Collins - City of Kamloops, Wendy Peschick- Community Living BC, Doug Sage - Kamloops Branch Canadian Mental Health Association, Stewart Johnson - John Howard Society, Arjun Singh - Sands Apartments Manager/Your Kamloops, Matt McLean - ASK Wellness Centre, Joy Murray - The Kelson Group.

photo courtesy of Kent Wong Photography



### NEXT STEPS

We are looking for businesses, banks, financial groups, concerned citizens, societies, non-profits and associations who are interested in working with a team of people to develop creative solutions to persistent, life-skills & employment related issues in our community. Do you have concerns about these issues? Do you have creative solutions? We would love to hear from you!

For more information visit  
[www.kamloopshap.ca](http://www.kamloopshap.ca)  
contact us at  
t. 250.571.9665  
e. [info@kamloopshap.ca](mailto:info@kamloopshap.ca)  
#15 - 219 Victoria Street  
Kamloops, BC V2C 2A1

We are also looking for ways to share information with groups interested in homelessness related issues. Does your group want to share information with the HAP? Does your group want the HAP to come and present information on the Action Plan? Give us a call, we are always looking for interested parties and new partners in the community!