

KAMLOOPS HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN



HAPPY NEW YEAR! We are well into year 2 of the Action Plan and have seen several successes! We look forward to utilizing our momentum through 2012 to help create housing & programs that will meet needs in our community.

SUCCESSES 2010-2011

- STEERING ADVISORY GROUP** - Meets monthly to form objectives and direct actions. Includes representatives from Community Agencies and the City of Kamloops. The Coordinator responds to SAG requests and develops initiatives in partnership with the community.
- HAP WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA** - The HAP Website, *Twitter*, *Facebook* & Blog are excellent places to get the latest information from the HAP (www.kamloopshap.ca)
- LEADERSHIP COUNCIL** - Meets bimonthly to discuss policy & regulation reforms. The group includes cross-sector representation from all levels of Government, Business, & Non-Profits.
- KAMLOOPS HOUSING BOARD** - Meets bi-monthly to assess Affordable Housing & related issues in the community. The group includes cross-sector representation from groups associated with Affordable Housing.
- SITES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING** - Four new sites were rezoned for use by Housing Operators that have Housing Agreements with the *City of Kamloops*.
- HIDDEN HOMELESS COUNT** - *The Social Planning & Research Council of BC* conducted a study in 5 medium sized communities in BC to understand Hidden Homelessness. It is estimated that through 2010 there were over 1,100 individuals living in hidden homelessness in Kamloops. Visit the HAP Website for the full report.
- UPDATED NON-PROFIT HOUSING INVENTORY** - The Non-Profit Housing Inventory is available at the HAP website and lists all of the Non-Profit Housing in Kamloops. Visit the *Seniors Outreach Services Society* for listings of Affordable Housing for Seniors. (www.kamseniorsoutreach.ca)
- OUTREACH WORKERS' GROUP FORMED** - *Kamloops Integrated Community Collaboration (KICC)* meets weekly to find direct solutions for individuals who are homeless.
- CALCULATION OF THE LIVING WAGE FOR KAMLOOPS** - \$17.27/hour for a 2 child, 2 parent home. Calculated by *TRU School of Business* and *United Way Thompson Nicola Cariboo*.

CURRENT INITIATIVES - 2012

- AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFORMATION SESSION** - Spring 2012 an information session will take place for builders, contractors, developers, landowners, and anyone interested in creating Affordable Housing in our community. Contact the HAP for an invite!
- COMMUNITY WIDE HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT** - While Non-Profit housing makes up a portion of affordable housing, there are also market units that can be classified as affordable. A comprehensive analysis of Kamloops' Affordable Housing will take place in 2012 through the *Kamloops Housing Board*.
- SUPPORT SERVICE INVENTORY** - A comprehensive inventory of all of the Support Services in Kamloops will help people seeking services and those providing them as well. Many thanks to *TRU Social Work & Nursing* Departments for their ongoing assistance with this project.
- COMMUNICATION PLANNING** - A team of experienced individuals will meet regularly to develop communication strategies with the HAP starting in 2012.



United Way
Thompson Nicola Cariboo



**CANADIAN MENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION**
KAMLOOPS BRANCH



CURRENT INITIATIVES 2012 CONTINUED

PARTNERING WITH TRU FOR RESEARCH – The *Social Work, Nursing, & School of Business*

Departments at TRU as well as the *Community University Research Alliance (CURA)* are all involved in developing local community-based research crucial to developing & measuring outcomes of the action plan.

DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL ALTERNATIVES – Along with members of *Changing the Face of Poverty*, the HAP is working towards measures that will increase access to fair banking & financial services.

BUSINESS SECTOR ENGAGEMENT – Many people in the business sector have tools and resources to help in the fight to end homelessness, we plan to engage and involve many people who may not have been involved in the issues in the past.

DEVELOPMENT OF LIFE SKILLS TRAINING – One of the keys to transitioning beyond homelessness is the right combination of Life Skills. The HAP will work with the agencies who are currently providing Life Skills to assess & respond to needs in the community.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

Highland Valley Copper

Teck

vancouver
foundation

Many thanks to the *Vancouver Foundation* & the *Tula Community Fund* (www.tula.org) for the generous donation of **\$6,000.00** that will go towards a community-wide assessment of Life Skills Training Programs. *Vancouver Foundation* helps build more vibrant and resilient communities in BC. They do this by harnessing the gifts of energy, ideas, time, & money from caring citizens to make meaningful and lasting impacts. To find out more visit: www.vancouverfoundation.ca

The following phase of the Life Skills Project has been recommended for **\$74,899.00** in Federal funding through the *Homelessness Partnership Strategy*. If approved, this funding will be utilized to develop Life Skills Training in the community based on the recommendations from the evaluation.

A huge thank you is in order to *Teck – Highland Valley Industries* for the **\$50,000.00** donation that will be used to create Life Skills Training Programs in our community. Teck - Highland Valley are regular contributors to community projects in the region and they have played a huge part in ensuring many individuals' success! Many Thanks to the employees at Teck - Highland Valley!



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