

KAMLOOPS HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN

2012 COMMUNITY REPORT



Projects & Achievements

Housing

- Kamloops Housing Board
- Glossary of Housing Terminology
- Non-Profit Housing Inventory
- Housing Needs & Demand Assessment
- Hidden Homeless Count
- 4 housing sites from the City of Kamloops
- Information sessions with BC Housing & CMHC
- Awareness events with local media

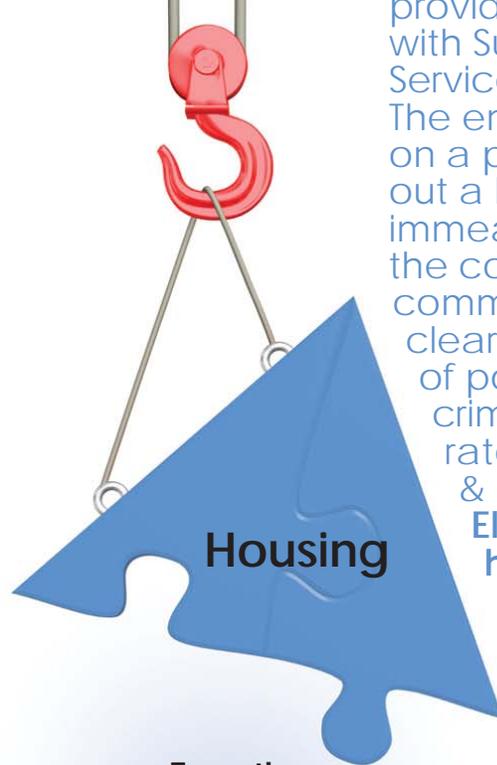
Support Services

- HAP website & social media
- Kamloops Support Service Inventory
- Presentations to local service clubs and TRU
- HAP Steering Advisory Group
- HAP Leadership Council
- Research partnerships with TRU
- Funding to provide Life Skills Training
- Life Skills Coordinator hired
- Stakeholder engagement plan developed

Financial Freedom

- Training at *United Way Public Policy Institute*
- Leadership Council formed
- Stakeholder engagement through *Changing the Face of Poverty*
- *Money Matters* research on financial solutions
- Calculation of the Living Wage for Kamloops
- *Enterprising Non-Profits* Information
- Sessions on Social Enterprise

HAP



It costs \$55,000/yr to leave a homeless person on the street while it costs only \$37,000/yr to provide Housing with Support Services.

The emotional toll on a person without a home is immeasurable and the costs to the community are clear; higher rates of poverty & crime with lower rates of health & education.

Eliminating homelessness benefits us all.

Together, we are ending homelessness.



Housing



Goal 1 Assess & Enhance Local Housing

Strategy Establish Local Housing Board to advise and research

The *Kamloops Housing Board* has been formed with 13 members representing all of the sectors affecting housing in our community. The first 3 years of the development of the housing board is supported by a generous grant from the *City of Kamloops* for \$60,000.00. The housing board has already created a comprehensive set of definitions related to housing, and updated the inventory of non-profit housing in the community. The next task for the housing board will be the creation of a community-wide Affordable Housing Need & Demand Study. This study will make it possible to understand not only non-profit housing but market housing, with projections for future need in our community. We are pleased that this housing analysis will be informed by the Hidden Homeless Count performed in partnership with the *Social Planning and Research Council of BC*.

Goal 2 Provide Housing Stability

Strategy A Promote Housing Support Agreements
Strategy B Establish Resident Support Program

ASK Wellness Centre, Kamloops & District Canadian Mental Health Association and the *Interior Health Authority* work together to provide an innovative housing solution for people in transition through the AASH & MAASH programs. This new model of programmed housing involves private landlords and works to keep individuals in transition connected with supports. These programs are a truly unique solution to homelessness, and the HAP is working towards supporting the program providers.

Another success has been realized with the rezoning of four of the proposed six *City of Kamloops* owned properties for affordable housing. These sites are available for groups who will be providing affordable housing.

Support Services



Goal 3 Connect People

Strategy A Improve Outreach
Strategy B Network Services

The HAP is proud to have been creating and expanding on opportunities for people to share information. One of the great opportunities to share knowledge is through the web, and we are pleased to have been developing our web presence while gathering followers for our social media. Please join us!

A foundational study is being performed community-wide to assess the availability of support services for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The Support Service Inventory has been made possible through the help of many TRU students, and through the participation of local community agencies. A special thanks is owed to the *TRU Bachelor of Social Work Program* for their significant contribution to the stakeholder interview portion of this research project.

We have also been working to connect people through the *HAP Steering Advisory Group, the HAP Leadership Council, the Kamloops Housing Board*, and through stakeholder engagement for projects such as the improvement of Life Skills Training. The HAP is also proud to be involved with community groups such as *Changing the Face of Poverty, Money Matters, the Kamloops Central Business Improvement Association Safety Committee, the Chamber of Commerce* and the *Kamloops Working Group on Homelessness*.

Goal 4 Build Life Skills

Building life skills is an important goal that we are happy to have obtained sponsorship for from *Teck – Highland Valley Industries, the Vancouver Foundation, and the Tula Community Fund*. There are a wide range of life skills involved in ending homelessness; from communication and personal relations, to health, wellness, and job readiness. The HAP has hired a part-time Life Skills Coordinator to engage stakeholders to inform the creation of improved life skills training programs in our community.

Thank You to All Our Supporters & Partners!

Canadian Home Builders' Association
Changing the Face of Poverty
City of Kamloops
Community Agencies & Non-Profits
HAP Steering Advisory Group
Highland Valley – TECK
Kamloops Alliance Church
Kamloops Chamber of Commerce
Kamloops Housing Board
HAP Leadership Council
Media Supporters
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
Thompson Rivers University & TRUSU
United Way
Vancouver Foundation
Tula Community Fund
Volunteers

Highland Valley Copper

Teck

vancouver
foundation



The most commonly asked question is: **“Don’t some people want to be homeless?”** The answer is no. Imagine what you would do to survive if you found yourself without a job, savings and emotional support. You would probably reach out to community services that can help find food and shelter. Now imagine there is no suitable shelter available. Then try to envision maintaining your own personal identity and sense of self dignity through all of this.

Many people who find themselves without shelter rapidly develop mental health challenges such as depression and anxiety, people who were already living with mental health challenges often find that their problems worsen. When you hear someone tell you that they want to be homeless, think again. Housing is survival, and all people want to not only survive, but to thrive in their community.

We are very excited about the newly formed **Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness** (CAEH). The CAEH is on a mission to create a national movement to prevent and end homelessness through the

Financial Freedom



Goal 5 Improve Fairness

Strategy Change laws, procedures, regulations, and protocols

Improving fairness is about addressing regulatory barriers that are stopping people from moving beyond their current circumstances towards personal empowerment. The HAP *Leadership Council* has 13 members, representing the various sectors and all four levels of government, working together on systemic barriers at the root of homelessness. Some examples of areas that the group has been discussing include Income Assistance, Earning Exemptions, and Tax Incentives for the creation of affordable housing.

Goal 6 Create & Maintain Employment

There are a range of employment opportunities required for individuals who have specific employment circumstances. The HAP will be working with employers to grow awareness about the needs of individuals, while also working to research new employment opportunities in the community. The HAP is proud to have been working together with *Thompson Nicola Cariboo United Way* to provide 2 workshops by *Enterprising Non-Profits (ENP)*. ENP is a province wide organization working to help people create social enterprises that benefit at-risk individuals in a financially sustainable way.



High Level Support
High Level of Public Funding

Mid Level Support



Low Level Support
Low Level of Public Funding

The Housing Continuum



Emergency
Shelter

Transitional, Supportive
& Assisted Living

Social Housing
& Subsidized Housing

Private Market
Rental
& Ownership

Housing First

strategies mean that homeless individuals or households are moved immediately from the streets or shelters into their own residences. Housing First is based on the concept that anyone's first and primary need is stable housing, and that other issues affecting the household can and should be addressed once housing is obtained. Concerns such as mental health, addictions, physical abuse, and poverty are better met from a suitable home, and supportive solutions are more efficiently provided to people who are in stable housing.

Housing stability must come in a variety of forms, some will require new housing to be constructed while other solutions will engage private landlords to house people in need. There are a variety of needs along the Housing Continuum and a range of solutions must be created to answer these needs. From temporary shelter beds, transitional and supported housing, to affordable rentals and home ownership, a variety of key stakeholders must be involved to help find solutions.

Next Steps

We must move all of the 6 HAP Goals forward and find housing solutions, appropriate support services and ways for people to create sustainable income. The HAP will be working together with local community agencies, businesses and government to build on initiatives, and pursue the objectives within the goals. We need more affordable housing of a variety of types, but we also need to ensure that all of the necessary supports will be in place along with new housing.



United Way



Canada's Tournament Capital



www.kamloopshap.ca

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e. info@kamloopshap.ca

Know someone who is homeless?

Connect them with supports from one of the HAP partner agencies:



COMMUNITY
SAFETY



tel. 250.374.0440



Wellness Centre
tel. 250.376.7558



Elizabeth Fry Society
tel. 250.374.2119

