Media Release

For Immediate Release:



Homelessness Action Week 2013 highlights agencies working together to end homelessness

VICTORIA, BC, October 11, 2013 – Homelessness Action Week (HAW) is an annual event focused on bringing public awareness and understanding to the issue of homelessness. Taking place October 13 to 19, 2013, HAW is focused this year not only on raising awareness of those living or at-risk of homelessness in our community, but also on the many organizations and agencies working together to end homelessness.

"This year Homelessness Action Week is an opportunity for those agencies and organizations working in the sector to share the great work they are doing with the public," says Andrew Wynn-Williams Executive Director of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. "While ending homelessness can seem like an insurmountable challenge, by taking the time to visit the agencies working to end homelessness and hear the stories of those that have experienced homelessness, it becomes apparent we can end it."

Local events celebrating Homelessness Action Week include:

October 17 Homelessness Action Week Open House All day, various locations, everyone welcome. More than 25 organizations across the region are opening their doors to the public – offering tours and information about their services. www.victoriahomelessness.ca/OpenHouse2013

October 17 Speakers Bureau Launch 7:00 pm, Ambrosia Centre (638 Fisgard St), everyone welcome. The official launch of the Coalition's Speakers Bureau. The Bureau is a group of individuals who've experienced homelessness and are trained and ready to share their unique experiences of homelessness. RSVP: www.victoriahomelessness.ca/SpeakersBureau

Special thanks to the following governments who showed their commitment to ending homelessness by proclaiming October 13 to 19, 2013 Homelessness Action Week (*known proclamations as of October 11, 2013*):

- Province of British Columbia
- City of Victoria
- Saanich
- Central Saanich

- Sidney
- Langford
- Sooke
- Highlands

The <u>Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness</u> is a partnership of local service providers, non-profit organizations, all levels of government, and the business, post-secondary and faith communities. The Coalition's mission is to end homelessness in Greater Victoria by 2018.

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For more information:

Kelsi Stiles Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness o: 250-370-1506; c: 778-977-3494 <u>kstiles@victoriahomelessness.ca</u>