

Media Backgrounder



greater victoria
coalition to end
homelessness

hope has found a home

The Hope Centre - Sooke

Today, the Capital Regional District, as the Community Entity for the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnership Strategy (HPS) announced the award of \$1.8 million from the HPS to the Hope Centre.

The Hope Centre is a mixed-use, housing, education, training, support and commercial use (Thrift Store) building designed to provide layers of complementary support to the homeless and at risk of homelessness populations of the community of Sooke. The focus of the project is on Aboriginal Persons.

The project will transform the current Saint Vincent de Paul thrift store on West Coast Road in Sooke into a four story structure. The building would include 25 units of housing, the current thrift store, a social concern office, and educational facilities. The HPS award will cover approximately one third of the projected \$5.9 million of the project.

The project addresses a number of key issues identified in the Community Plan of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. These include the creation of supportive housing, addressing underserved regional populations, as well as providing services to the important youth and aboriginal sub-groups.

The project is a partnership between the M'akola Housing Society and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. M'akola has been operating, developing and managing housing and housing support for over 30 years. Saint Vincent de Paul has been providing affordable and supportive housing solutions since 1916.

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a unique community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to communities across Canada. The HPS provides structures and supports that help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness achieve self-sufficiency and full participation in society. The HPS seeks to address homelessness by working in partnership with the provinces and territories, other federal departments, as well as with communities and the private and not-for-profit sectors.

The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness is a partnership of local service providers, non-profit organizations, all levels of government, and the business, post-secondary and faith communities. The Coalition also acts as the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the HPS and its mission is to end homelessness in Greater Victoria by 2018.

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