## Media Release

For Immediate Release:

## **Coalition creates Street Survival Guide**



VICTORIA, BC, February 7, 2013 – Today the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (Coalition) released the first ever Greater Victoria Street Survival Guide.

The Street Survival Guide provides information on resources and services available in Victoria to survive, and move on from, homelessness. Created by a group of volunteers with street-life experience, the guide contains more than 80 resources, including; housing, food, laundry, harm reduction services and more.

"This guide would have made a real difference in my life when I was homeless," says Jerry McBride, member of the Street Survival Guide Team. "It can take weeks – or months – to navigate all the services and resources available in Victoria, this simplifies that."

"Social inclusion was the key to the creation of the Guide," said Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director of the Coalition. "We understood from the beginning, to create the most useful Guide possible, we had to ask the experts – those that have experienced homelessness themselves."

"Participating in this group has been a really great experience for me" says Nate Moss, member of the Street Survival Guide Team. "Everyone in the group is so supportive of each other and embraces diverse experiences and ideas. This project created a safe space where we were free to be ourselves, without judgment. The Survival Guide Team is looking forward to collaborating with the Coalition in future."

View the Street Survival Guide online: victoriahomelessness.ca

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's vision is to end homelessness in Greater Victoria by 2018.

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