

# Media Release



greater victoria  
coalition to end  
homelessness  

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hope has found a home

For Immediate Release:

## **Coalition Announces at AGM: New Report on Housing and Supports & two new projects on the PHPL**

VICTORIA, BC, September 12, 2012 – Highlighting the need for more supportive and affordable housing, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (Coalition) released *Facing Homelessness (Report on Housing and Supports 2012/13)* today. To help meet this need, two additional housing projects have been added to the Coalition's Priority Housing Project List (PHPL). The PHPL is a response to the continued challenge of housing and homelessness in our community.

Research shows more than 1,600 unique individuals used an emergency shelter in Greater Victoria during 2012/13, keeping shelters at an average 112% capacity throughout the year. On a single night in February, more than 1,000 people sought shelter in temporary accommodations.

"We tried to make the Report on Housing and Supports about more than just numbers this year," says Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director at the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. "Throughout the report the voices of people with experiences of homelessness are highlighted. These voices provided an insight into the numbers – bringing the data to life."

The Report on Housing and Supports also provides information on those at risk of homelessness. Examining households in core housing need, on waitlists for subsidized housing and those relying on food banks to make ends meet. Subsidized housing continues to be unavailable, with more than 1,400 people trying to access subsidized housing in our region through the Housing Registry.

To help address this challenge the Coalition has created the Priority Housing Project List (PHPL), promoting projects that meet the Coalition's criteria for affordability and support. Two new projects have been added this year. The first is Siem Lelum Phase II. The Victoria Native Friendship Centre project on Gorge Rd features 15 supportive housing units.

"As Siem Lelum Phase II moves forward it is good to see the continued support of the Coalition through the acceptance of the project to the Priority Housing Project List, which will be helpful particularly in developing the community facility elements of the project," says Bruce Parisian, Executive Director of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. "I am happy to see the relationship continue between the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and the Coalition to support our Aboriginal families and young people."

The second project added to the list is Wilson Heights. The Pacfica Housing Advisory Association project is a development of 108 units of rental housing with 84 affordable units.

"We strive to create good quality rental housing for lower income families and single adults which provide opportunities to foster independence and confidence so they can move forward in their lives," said Karyn French, Executive Director for Pacifica Housing. "The Priority Housing Project List strategically positions development projects providing increased awareness which will enable us to realize our vision of having a positive impact to the affordability of housing in our community."

These two projects join Rosalie's Village, Cottage Grove, Cedar Grove, and Central Gardens on the Priority Housing Project List.

The PHPL contains a variety of projects from across the region. Units are intended for a number of client types, including supportive housing for youth, units for low income singles, units for young single mothers, women at risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse and affordable housing units.

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 the Capital Region by 2018.

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