

Media Release



greater victoria
coalition to end
homelessness

hope has found a home

For Immediate Release:

Coalition releases New Report on Housing and Supports

VICTORIA, BC, December 3, 2015 – Highlighting the need for more supportive and affordable housing, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (Coalition) released *Homelessness in Greater Victoria (Report on Housing and Supports 2014/15)* today.

Research shows more than 1,700 unique individuals used an emergency shelter in Greater Victoria during 2014/15, keeping emergency shelters at an average 112% capacity throughout the year.

“Homelessness continues to be a crisis in our community,” says Kelsi Stiles, Acting Executive Director at the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. “This report shows us that while the number of people experiencing homelessness is not dramatically increasing in Greater Victoria, the response is not either.”

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 oversubscribed, with more than 1,500 people trying to access subsidized housing in our region through the Housing Registry.

Homelessness in Greater Victoria Recommendations:

- Increase the number of subsidized housing units
- Extend the criteria for rental assistance to allow more households access
- Increase understanding on housing needs for Aboriginal peoples
- Increase housing outreach initiatives and the number of rental supplements available
- Review housing and support service system to ensure effective and efficient program coordination

“The data in this report clearly show how the disparity between income and the cost of housing makes it almost impossible for people on low or fixed incomes to secure suitable housing,” said Marika Albert, lead researcher of the report. “Social assistance rates have remained stagnant since 2007 while the cost of rent has consistently increased to a point where the shelter amount for income assistance doesn’t come close to covering the cost of housing, let alone food, utilities, and other necessities”.

Read: [*Homelessness in Greater Victoria: Report on Housing and Supports 2014/15*](#)

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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