

Media Release

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Homelessness Coalition Releases Community Plan and Housing Procurement Plan

Victoria, BC – Today the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness released both *Solving Homelessness in British Columbia’s Capital Region: A Community Plan*, along with the Coalition’s *Housing Procurement Action Plan*.

The Community Plan provides a summary of the common vision and strategies identified by Coalition partners to end homeless in the Capital Region. As a three year rolling plan this document is intended to be a catalyst for action by a range of community partners including agencies serving people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

“Under the leadership of the Coalition to End Homelessness, Greater Victoria, as a community, has made tremendous progress towards ending homelessness,” said the Coalition’s co-Chair, Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin. “The priorities outlined in this plan demonstrate how the Coalition and its important partners will continue the mission to end homelessness over the next three years.”

The plan identifies five priorities to guide both its own actions and those of its partners. These are:

1. Increase the supply of safe, decent, affordable, permanent housing, including supported housing.
2. Prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and assist people who are at risk of homelessness.
3. Support people while they are experiencing homelessness.
4. Ensure a coordinated and comprehensive community response to homelessness.
5. Build public and political support to end homelessness.

The Housing Procurement Action Plan is a key step toward addressing the first priority identified in the Community Plan. Projecting out to 2018, this framework envisions the creation of 964 units of supported housing through a combination of new construction, acquisition, and rent supplements. The total capital cost is projected at \$109.9 million with, by 2018, \$13.7 million of ongoing operational costs (including debt servicing).

Both reports are available on the Coalition’s website: www.solvehomelessness.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 the Capital Region by 2018.

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