

Media Release



greater victoria
coalition to end
homelessness

hope has found a home

For Immediate Release:

\$1.8 Million Awarded to Hope Centre: A Coalition Housing Pipeline project in Sooke

Victoria, BC, October 10, 2012 - The Capital Regional District, in its capacity as the Community Entity for the Homelessness Partnership Strategy (HPS) today announced the award of \$1.8 million in HPS funding to the Hope Centre project in Sooke.

“We knew it was coming but are still delighted with this announcement today,” said Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director of The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. “Not only is this the recommendation we made as the Community Advisory Board for the HPS, but this project sits right at the top of our Housing Pipeline List. Housing like this is an important step on the road to ending homelessness in Greater Victoria.”

“We are really happy about this announcement,” said Angela Hudson, Executive Director of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul one of the project’s proponents. “This project will provide much needed support to the both the aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth community in Sooke. Hope Centre will become a realization because of the contributions of both our Societies and the support of the Local, Municipal, Provincial and Federal levels. This is an excellent example of how we can all work together as a community to benefit those in need.”

“This is a really big step on the way to completing this project,” said Kevin Albers, CEO of M’akola Housing. “This initial award coupled with the contributions from the M’akola Group and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul can now be leveraged to secure the balance of funding and mortgage financing to make this project sustainable and a reality.”

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 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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For more information:

Andrew Wynn-Williams
Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness
o: 250.370.1516; c: 250.217.3709
awynn-williams@victoriahomelessness.ca