

Media Release



greater victoria
coalition to end
homelessness

hope has found a home

For Immediate Release:

Coalition believes youth homelessness can be ended

Victoria, BC, September 9, 2013 – It is estimated that as many as 600 youth and young adults face the challenges and risks of homelessness in Greater Victoria. Service providers working with youth believe this number is increasing. The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (Coalition) says more supported, youth-specific housing will help to address this issue.

“With everyone taking their own children back to school it seemed an ideal time for the public to be thinking about those in our community who don’t have the same opportunity,” explains Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director of the Coalition. “One obvious step to solving the challenge of youth homelessness is to build more supported youth housing.”

Homeless youth make up over one-third of Canadian homeless population. Homelessness compromises the physical and emotional health of youth, who are in a crucial developmental stage and require different services and supports from the adult homeless population. Many youth experiencing homelessness do not sleep rough on the streets, but are hidden. They may sleep in cars, at friends’ homes or couch surf. Because of this, it’s difficult to get an accurate account of the scope of the issue.

“Youth homelessness can be ended,” says Wynn-Williams. “We’re hosting a Community Forum on Youth Homelessness to give the public the opportunity to learn more about a solvable challenge in our community.”

Youth Homelessness Community Forum

Wednesday, September 11 from 7pm to 9pm
Belmont Sr. Secondary, 3067 Jacklin Rd

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. For more information visit, victoriahomelessness.ca

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