

Media Release



greater victoria
coalition to end
homelessness
hope has found a home

For Immediate Release:

Coalition releases new plan to address chronic homelessness in Greater Victoria

Victoria, BC, April 24, 2015 – Today the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (Coalition) released Creating Homes, Enhancing Communities (CHEC) a four-year plan to house individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the Greater Victoria region.

“This plan outlines a way forward for our community,” say Coalition Leadership Council co-chair Mayor Lisa Helps. “No one agency or funder can do it alone. It’s only in coming together with our partners and senior levels of government it is possible to end homelessness.”

An update of the 2012 Housing Procurement Action Plan, CHEC is a key step toward addressing homelessness in our region. Using analysis of patterns of emergency shelter use, it estimates the number of individuals in the region who require support services in order to remain housed. It then creates a plan that includes housing and support services as required.

“This plan focuses on the most vulnerable individuals who would be unable to maintain their own housing even if it was affordable,” says Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director of the Coalition. “It would help us to house those who experience chronic homelessness.”

This plan does not address the large numbers of individuals experiencing short-term homelessness due to affordability issues or temporary crises. It is specifically focused on supporting Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable individuals.

Outlined in the CHEC plan:

- Minimum of 367 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Greater Victoria
- To address this, 185 units constructed as purpose built housing with 182 units secured in existing rental stock.
- Two scenarios proposed to fund housing:
 1. \$24.5 M capital funding over 4 years and \$617,400/year for rental supplements
 - Scenario 1 provides a capital cost estimate for housing should capital support become available from funding sources.
 2. \$9.4 M capital funding over 4 years and \$1.6 M/year for rental supplements
 - Scenario 2 calls for rental supplements as the primary tool to enable program participants the opportunity to afford new-build units.
- Each scenario requires \$7.1 M/year in support services
 - Support services are an essential component to this initiative. The more significant the need, the more costly the support service is to deliver; a High



Need + individual's support costs is \$73,000/year, whereas a Moderate Need individual's annual support cost is \$10,547.

Read the report: [Creating Homes, Enhancing Communities](#)

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.

- 30 -

For more information:

Kelsi Stiles
Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness
o: 250.370.1506; c: 778.977.6494
kstiles@victoriahomelessness.ca