



ALLIANCE TO END
HOMELESSNESS
IN THE CAPITAL REGION



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

FUNCTIONAL ZERO
HOMELESSNESS



This year, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (GVCEH) has rebranded its name to **ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS IN THE CAPITAL REGION (AEHCR)**.

The new name allows us to continue the extensive work that the GVCEH started in 2008 and build on our focus of leading change toward Functional Zero Homelessness in the Capital Region and beyond, grow partnerships to drive prevention, and shape a future where everyone has a safe place to call home.

VISION

A region, a province, and a country
where everyone has a safe place
to call home.

MISSION

To ensure experiences of homelessness in
the Capital Region by 2030 are rare, brief,
and non-recurring and that housing and
supports are culturally adaptive, creative,
caring, and person-centered.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge with respect that we conduct our business within the traditional territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOŖÉCEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEL (Malahat), P’achi:da?aht (Pacheedaht), Pune’laxutth’ (Penelekut), Sc’ianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, SŖÁUTW (Tsawout), T’Sou-ke, W JOŁELP (Tsartlip), W SIKEM (Tseycum), and x*sepsəm (Esquimalt), all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

We are aware of and strive to continue educating ourselves on the multilayered injustices that these communities still experience, and to keep on forging collaborative actions in addressing homelessness among Indigenous peoples.





CONTENTS

- 04 Message from the Co-Chairs
- 05 Message from the Executive Director
- 06 Mission Critical
- 07 Community Outcomes Annual Highlights
 - Support Services
 - Housing
 - Advocacy & Awareness
 - Prevention Support
 - Collaboration & Leadership
- 19 Regional Highlights
- 23 Board of Directors & Committees
- 24 Auditor's Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



Cliff McNeil-Smith
CLIFF MCNEIL-SMITH
Co-Chair



Jeff Bray
JEFF BRAY
Co-Chair

On behalf of the Board, it is our pleasure to reflect on the critical work accomplished by the Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region in the past year and to celebrate our collective efforts in achieving functional-zero by 2030.

2022-2023 was a year of continued transition. As our organization and sector re-emerges from the long-lasting effects of COVID, together, we have rallied to re-energize and re-commit to meeting the challenges that are facing our region, our nation and the world. The Alliance's efforts have continued to be deployed in supporting our members, partners and community and in bringing together all those who are able to transform the existing systems and to work for better outcomes for our unsheltered neighbours.

The focus of the Alliance has been to ensure that we cross the last few miles of the current Community Plan and to begin the consultation process to draft the upcoming one, where a greater focus must be placed on the upstream and downstream prevention needed to achieve functional-zero by 2030.

As the affordability crisis deepens, high interest rates and high inflation prevail, the Alliance pivoted to returning to its core mission and to ensure that our sector, now more than ever, continues to focus, cooperate and propose workable solutions.

Our small but mighty team has not been spared significant changes as we lost some of our staff to other opportunities. We also welcomed new staff to our organization who are just as passionate and caring and who dedicate their talents to our mission and the vision for our community.

Together we have the vision to effect change. Together we must continue to forge ahead to ensure every is welcomed, belongs and thrives in our community. No one is left behind. No one is forgotten. And everyone has a place they can call home.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear members, colleagues, and partners,

I want to thank all of you for the contributions you make to this sector and for your dedication to continue to work together. Together, we continue the drive to find workable and sustainable solutions to achieve our common vision. Your tireless efforts, your perseverance and your resiliency are not only remarkable, but are at the center of my professional and personal inspiration.



SYLVIA CEACERO
Executive Director

This year has shown us that circumstances beyond our control: labour shortages, economic turmoil, supply chain issues, climate change etc... have translated into a slower than anticipated post-COVID recovery. The connections and interconnections that are required to deal with this wicked problem that is homelessness and the demands to give more of us to this fight, have not gone unnoticed. Now, more than ever, we must come together to drive change and to be relentless in our quest to move forward with a clear direction, mandate and a plan of action.

As I perused previous annual reports, I was struck by the profound thoughts of two of our previous Executive Directors when they wrote: [...we needed to think beyond only mental health and substance use as critical drivers of homelessness and barriers to recovery. Homelessness and poverty are inextricably interconnected and need to be understood from the point of view of the people experiencing them. As we listen to those willing to share their story, it becomes critical to acknowledge and accept that the pervasive and inescapable experiences of poverty are trapping individuals in cycles of homelessness and this complex community challenge requires a complex societal response...] Although those words were written almost 5 years ago, they continue to ring true today.

COVID clearly demonstrated that during a global crisis, we are able and capable of rallying together to find a way to safeguard the most vulnerable. As the housing, mental health, drug poisoning crisis escalate, so must our efforts. Prevention must be at the forefront of all that we do. The silos must be broken. The same old approaches must be shattered and rebuilt with a reconciliation lens. Collaboration and cooperation must prevail above all else.

Our complex societal response must be informed by the voices of lived and living experience and must engage every single person in our community. We continue to call for governments to work together and coordinate their efforts with us around housing, mental health, addictions, poverty reduction and support of families. We continue to call on partners to find the pathways to sustainable solutions with us. We look to our community at large to unite their voices to ours so we can carry those messages forth and effect change. We must act in ways we have not acted before. Ginni Rometty was famously quoted for saying "someone once told me growth and comfort do not coexist. I think that is a good thing to remember." We must act now, we must act boldly and we must act together.

Community Plan 2019-2024

The **2019-2024 Community Plan to End Homelessness in the Capital Region** reflects the work of many partners, including people with lived experience of homelessness, Indigenous serving organizations, community not-for-profit service organizations, and representatives from government, businesses, and funders.

The on-the-ground experience of the homelessness serving sector, as well as the perspectives of people with lived experience and Indigenous people helped inform the development of **Five Key Community-Based Outcome Areas** and their associated goals and objectives.

Support Services:

- A. People experiencing homelessness will quickly and equitably receive the support they need over the course of their journey.
- B. Support services agencies have the mandate and capacity to deliver the needed services.

Housing:

A supply of accessible, appropriate, and safe housing, centered around the unique needs of individuals is available.

Advocacy & Awareness:

Communities and neighborhoods are inclusive, empathetic, compassionate, and welcoming of people experiencing homelessness through advocacy and awareness that homelessness is something that impacts everyone in the community.

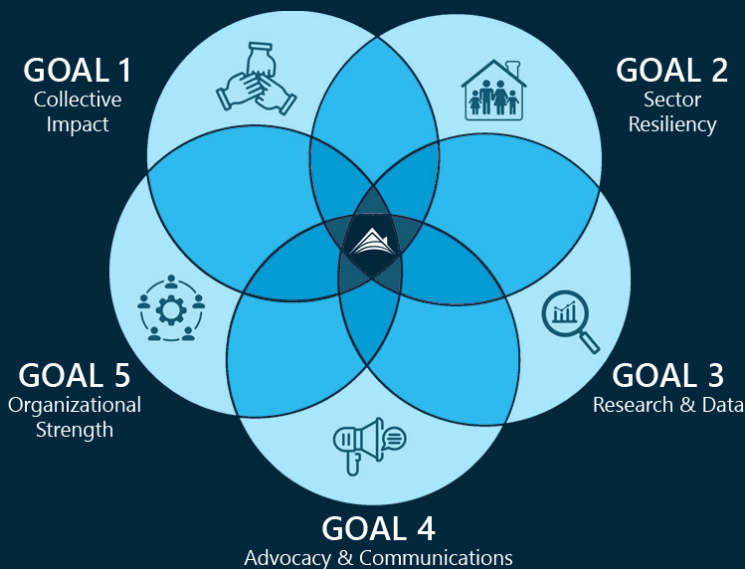
Prevention:

People are prevented from becoming homeless.

Collaboration & Leadership

Leadership at all community and government levels share a common sense of purpose and are effective collaborative, supportive, and inclusive.

The AEHCR's Five Strategic Goals Supporting Community Plan Outcomes



GOAL 1: Collective Impact

We align and focus the opportunities that arise from the intersection of our work in the community through the development and strengthening of partnerships that result in system transformation, upstream and downstream.

GOAL 2: Sector Resiliency

We support our sector's human beings to thrive in the service of our community by developing best-practices approaches that are human capital centric.

GOAL 3: Research & Data

We uphold the highest research and data standards to support evidence-based decision-making at all levels.

GOAL 4: Advocacy & Communications

We amplify the voice of the sector to reach its functional-zero-by-2030 goal through the development and implementation of a sector-wide advocacy and communications plan.

GOAL 5: Organizational Strength

We continue to develop a GVCEH team that is adequately resourced to augment capacity that aligns and focuses on mission-critical actions that support the evolving needs of the sector.



SUPPORT SERVICES

Highlights

Outcome:

People experiencing homelessness will quickly and equitably receive the support they need over the course of their journey.

Support services agencies have the mandate and capacity to deliver the needed services.

Project Reconnect 2022

The Downtown Service Providers (DSP) committee brought together dozens of service providers and information booths at the Royal Athletic Park for Project Reconnect last August 23, 2022.

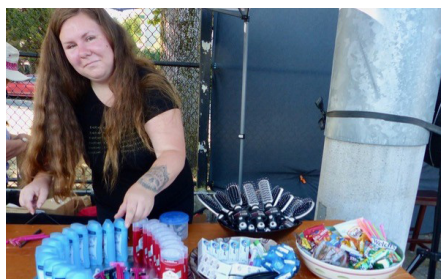
Project Reconnect, the revitalization of a pre-COVID annual event known as Project Connect, is a one-day service and information fair for those experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty in Greater Victoria. More than 30 organizations participated and offered an estimated 200 attendees access to a variety of services including medical care, peer support, professional portraits, an ID clinic, and more. The event was generously sponsored by the United Way of Southern Vancouver Island (UWSVI) and the UWSI Labour Council.

Volunteers from the community and across the sector supported delivery of the event, including people with lived and living experiences of homelessness.

“

Project Reconnect is a good time to reevaluate the looking glass (through which) we view marginalized people in our society, whether they struggle with drug misuse or homelessness, we need to reevaluate and reconnect. I believe it's instrumental in bringing us together in working towards a common solution.

- Darrin Murphy,
person with lived experience and one of the attendees.



Extreme Weather Response Coordination

Starting on December 15, 2022, in anticipation of the cold and snowy winter season for the City of Victoria, the AEHCR took on the role of Extreme Weather Response (EWR) coordinator. The AEHCR coordinated the activation and deactivations of the City of Victoria EWR for overnight warming shelters in the event of extreme weather conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life and health of people who are experiencing homelessness.

Shelter beds
were open

43
nights

Total of
1900
mat spots provided
over the season

3 organizations co-
operated to provide mats

- City of Victoria
- Salvation Army ARC
- Victoria Cool Aid Society

2 churches made
their spaces available

- James Bay United
- St. John the Divine

► Peer Housing Support Program

The Peer Housing Support Program flourished in 2022-2023 thanks to the UBCM funding support. The team strengthened active and ongoing collaboration between community partners in the housing, supports services, other partners, and those who are living unsheltered. With a holistic understanding of the social issues of homelessness, and a relational approach that centered and amplified the voices of those with lived experiences and their allies, the Peer Housing Support Program actively engaged in increased collaboration across the housing and supports services sector to maintain and build upon current levels of communication and relationship building, and to increase networking practices between teams, programs, and services across the Greater Victoria region, while centering and prioritizing the voices and the needs of those who are most vulnerable in their experiences with homelessness.

With a foundational Lived Experience approach to providing services, the Peer Housing Support Program sought to maintain and increase current support services including: employment for Persons with Lived Experiences of homelessness, increasing the number of persons who are actively supported through the Peer Housing Support Program with peer support, convened the Regional Community of Practice (a monthly meeting between multi-disciplinary peer support workers across the Greater Victoria region working across skillsets), operated the Greater Victoria Street Community Outreach Teams Connect, and supported the ongoing collaboration, relationship-building, daily networking with Victoria City Bylaw Services, continued and increased peer support engagement with the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness with activity-based peer support drop-in times that focused supports for the residents of Speq??éutxw (SPAKEN) House and much more.

The Peer Housing Support Program was a resounding success and the GVCEH is very proud of the team that led this program, the supports they provided to those living unsheltered, and achieving the outcomes expected by all partners and our community.





HOUSING

Highlights

Outcome:

A supply of accessible, appropriate, safe, and person-centered housing is available.

Tiny Homes Village Licence Extension

BC Housing, Our Place Society and the AEHCR requested a six-month licence extension from the City of Victoria to continue to provide temporary housing at the Tiny Homes Village (940 Caledonia Ave.) until September 30, 2023.

The project partners invited the community to a public information session at the North Park Neighbourhood Association last February 14, 2023 to provide updates, answer questions from the community, and gather feedback.

Since May 2021, this Tiny Homes Village has offered safe and warm conditions to our community's most vulnerable people while BC Housing builds permanent supportive homes in the region. While many building projects are nearing completion, industry-wide construction delays have caused the need for this extension.

It is now anticipated that all Tiny Homes residents will move into permanent homes by the end of September 2023, at which time the Tiny Homes Village will be removed from the site.





ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

Highlights

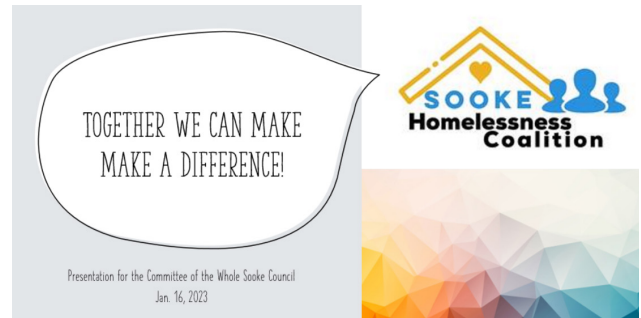


Outcome:

Communities and neighborhoods are inclusive, empathetic, compassionate, and welcoming of people experiencing homelessness through advocacy and awareness that homelessness is something that impacts everyone in the community, un-housed and housed.

► Sooke Municipal Engagement in Communication, Education, and Awareness Initiative

Sooke Homelessness Coalition volunteer members completed the Sooke Homelessness Awareness & Strategic Plan Presentation to the District of Sooke Council at Committee of the Whole on Jan 16, 2022. Education and awareness were provided regarding funding sustainability around the potential for all levels of government to participate in shared accountability partnerships. District of Sooke to consider Service Agreement with Sooke Shelter Society for core funding.



► Talking Circles and Resident Meetings

The talking circles and resident meetings that were facilitated monthly across various supportive housing units and shelters in the capital region served to amplify the voices of the residents who were being served by those shelters and supportive housing units. This amplification of the voices of the residents helps those managers, staff, and supervisors within the sites who can effect change within the units be aware and updated on the needs, wants, and issues of the residents.

These meetings, and the notes transcribed from them, served to provide anonymous qualitative data that was used to create an infographic report on user-centered design for housing as well.

- Number of talking circles and resident meetings facilitated in total: **65**.
 - » Number facilitated at Medewiwin: 10.
 - » Number facilitated at Mt. Tolmie: 11.
 - » Number facilitated at The Soleil: 11.
 - » Number facilitated at Tiny Homes: 11.
 - » Number facilitated at The Hope Center: 9.
 - » Number facilitated at Mt. Edwards: 11.
 - » Others upon request: 2.
 - » Total number of resident attendees: 653
- Number of Chew and Chats Facilitated: **4**.
- 1 Indigenous focus group for user-centered design for housing.



Face 2 Face with Stigma Workshops

Face to Face with Stigma provided 31 workshops, reaching 428 participants, over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The range of organizations reached was far-reaching and included:

Law Enforcement

- Paladin Security
- Police Victims Services
- RCMP
- Sooke fire and bylaw
- Victoria Police Department recruits

Education

- Camosun Social Justice
- Reynolds Secondary School
- University of Toronto
- University of Victoria Inspire program students
- University of Victoria 4th year nurses

Community Organizations

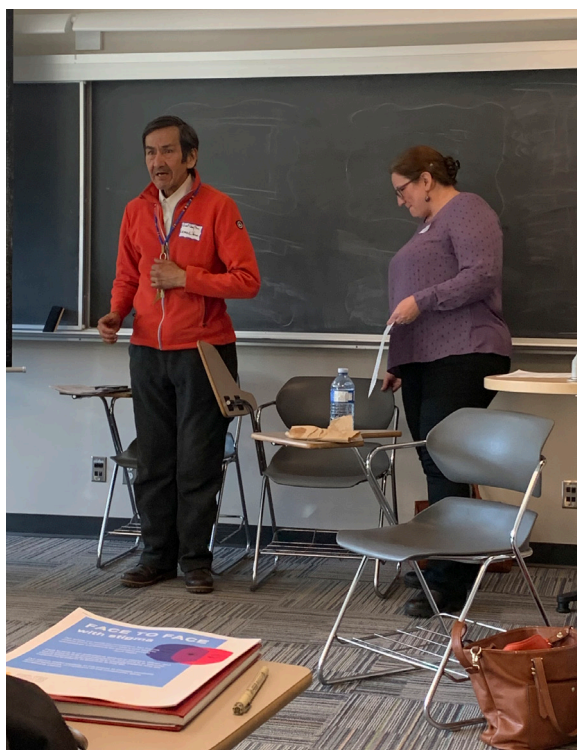
- BC SPCA
- Boys and Girls Club South Vancouver Island
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group
- PEERS
- Victoria Brain Injury Society

Events

- Sooke Community Event

Face 2 Face with Stigma (F2F Stigma) is an anti-stigma workshop created, driven, and led by people with lived/living experiences. The goal of the workshop is to educate, inspire empathy and reduce fear toward people experiencing homelessness and/or substance use disorder.

In a safe environment, the workshop provided an opportunity for essential conversations on various topics relating to equity and stigma. Personal stories presented were used to foster equality to decrease stigma by changing mindsets and perspectives of the community.





PREVENTION SUPPORT

Highlights

Outcome:

People are prevented from becoming homeless.

► Surfacing Our Strengths: Pathway To Action

The Surfacing Our Strengths: Pathway to Action, held last November 15, 2022, convened organizations and representatives from across diverse sectors (e.g. service providers, federal/provincial/regional/municipal governments, health, housing providers) and people with lived experience to advance concrete commitments and actions towards systemic housing solutions for women+ at risk of violence and homelessness in the Capital Region.

The objectives of this half-day event were:

- » To refocus and prioritize commitment from partners, funders, and government to collaboratively address appropriate and adequate housing and supports for women+ at risk of violence;
- » To share priority opportunities for action from the Surfacing Our Strengths Housing Lab roadmap and explore specific next steps/innovations needed; and
- » To strengthen relationships and deepen understanding across sectors and organizations.



► Inspire Conference (Navigator App)

In the spring and summer of 2022, the GVCEH (doing business as the AEHCR) partnered with Garage Apprentice students from the University of Victoria's Inspire Program to create a Navigator App prototype designed to assist Women and Gender-diverse individuals navigate the systems designed to support those fleeing violence and at risk of homelessness.

The first annual INSPIRE Conference was the culmination of students' community-focused, experiential learning experience and a showcase of their project stories, accomplishments, and experiences in its 2022 Apprentice Garage Program was held September 7, 2022, at the Esquimalt Gorge Park & Pavilion. The GVCEH project team presented their prototype at the event.

► Youth Task Force

With Sylvia Ceacero as Co-Chair, the Youth Task Force met several times throughout the year with a focus on the distinct needs of youth in the context of: functional zero, the role of prevention, coordinated access, collective impact, and growing a connection to the BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness. Task Force meetings included a strong focus on program level information sharing, as well as sector level actions. This created rich discussion, however varying levels of seniority around the table sometimes made more cohesive action challenging. In the coming fiscal year the Youth Task Force will begin to assess the optimal membership and form to continue both the vital information sharing as well as strategic sector action.



COLLABORATION & LEADERSHIP

Highlights

Outcome:

Leadership at all levels of community and government share a common sense of purpose and are effective, collaborative, supportive, and inclusive.

2022 City of Victoria Municipal Election Town Hall

The Downtown Service Providers (DSP) Committee hosted a City of Victoria Municipal Elections Townhall on September 27, 2022, at the First Met Fellowship Hall. The townhall brought together candidates running for Mayor and Councilors for the City of Victoria with the primary focus of putting the homelessness issue at the forefront of the discussion. The Townhall also provided the opportunity for the candidates to engage with the community and answer their questions.

Five questions had been sent out to all candidates prior to the townhall that not only asked about their plans and stand on homelessness issues but also sought their commitment to support concrete actions, should they be elected.



Macro-Support & Sector Capacity Building through Micro-Credentialing

Collaborating with the University of Victoria Division of Continuing Studies, the AEHCR has been co-developing free, accessible micro-credentialed training modules for workers in the homelessness response housing sector. These modules are being created through engagement with housing providers and peers in the community and are aligned with sector/peer-identified needs. These modules are designed through sector-wide shared understanding and implementation of best practices relating to identified gaps: cultural competencies and decolonization training/practices, supporting women and 2SLGBTQIA+ community (responding to Gender-based and intimate partner violence), self-care and burnout prevention, standardized reporting (data entry and event logs), de-escalation and violence prevention, trauma-informed care, harm reduction, and safety.



The AEHCR and UVic's Division of Continuing Studies, collaborating with the Best Practices Collective, has been developing a 6-module online professional development certificate to increase sector capacity and improve service delivery and resident outcomes. Delivery of the first module, Mental Health, and Substance Use and Supporting Others Caring for Self, was held in April 2023 (fiscal year 2023-2024).



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY DATA DASHBOARD

Kicking off on July 26, 2022, the Community Data Dashboard Working Group (CDD-WG), is working to create a data dashboard. The dashboard will be shared internally to start, with the delivery of an external facing dashboard as the work progresses.

The initial data dashboard focuses on a housing baseline snapshot. Information on housing coming online, Emergency Weather Response activations, and City of Victoria outdoor sheltering information are included in the initial dashboard. Additionally, the CDD-WG is looking at housing definitions to categorize existing housing accurately.

Although not ready for external publication, the CDD-WG has finalized information for many member organizations and is in the process of collecting information from the remaining member organizations for the following indicators:

- » mats/beds/units,
- » occupancy rates,
- » waitlist number,
- » and sex & Indigeneity demographics.



To date, the CDD-WG consists of the following Alliance member organizations involved in housing:

Anawim Companion Society, BC Housing, CRD, Greater Victoria Housing Society, Island Health, John Howard Society of Victoria, Our Place Society, Pacifica Housing Advisory Association, PHS, Salvation Army, The Cridge Centre for the Family, Threshold Housing Society, Victoria Cool Aid Society, and Victoria Women's Transition House. Recent additions to the working group include Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and Beacon Community Service

EXPLORE SONGHEES TOUR



On June 23, 2022, the System Transformation Working Group joined the Explore Songhees Tour to walk the talk of reconciliation and learn more about the territories on which we are doing our work. The event offered a unique opportunity to deepen our understanding of Indigenous cultures, histories, and traditions. It was a chance to engage in meaningful dialogue, learn from one another, and build bridges of mutual respect and friendship.

BURNSIDE-GORGE COMMUNITY MAPPING

Burnside-Gorge Community Association (BGCA), located in lək'wəŋən Traditional Territories, in collaboration with the AEHCR, entered a multi-year Burnside-Gorge Neighbourhood Engagement strategy, funded by the Provincial Strengthening Communities Grant. Building on the first phase of the overarching engagement strategy, multiple in-person engagements were held over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Following up on Phase 1 information gathering, the BGCA and AEHCR hosted an event in Cecelia Ravine on April 9, 2023 to gather further community input.

A further engagement held May 19, 2022, looked at themes developed through the April 9th engagement and included the following:

Access to Nature

- Parks • Dog Parks • Nature Walks • More Plants • Water Access

Basic Needs

- Health • Housing • Supports • Policy Recommendations

Biking, Driving & Walking

- Galloping Goose • Bike Lanes • Traffic Calming

Business Development

- Social Enterprise • Grocer • Business Hub

Community Events & Inclusion

- Youth & Children • Families • Seniors • BBQs • Nerf Parties • Outdoor Movie Nights

Placemaking

- Clean Teams & Community Cleaning • Markets • Activate Cecelia Ravine Park • Gardens

Safety & Amenities

- Safe Night Walking • Community Patrol • Policing • Showers on the Galloping Goose

Sports & Recreation

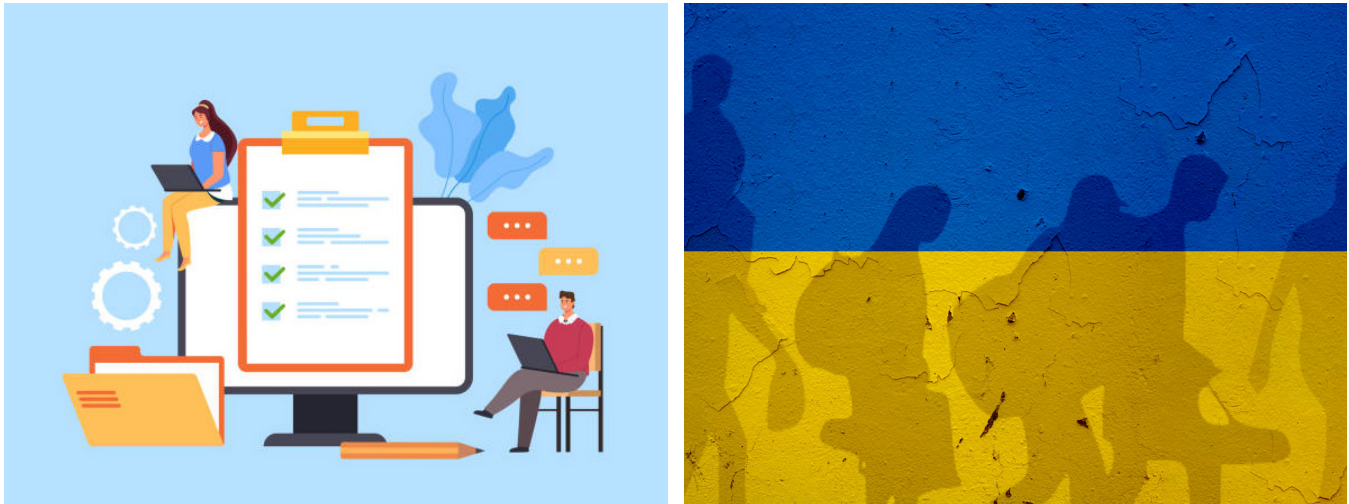
- Water Access/Water Park • Walking Groups • Drop-in Sports (ages 20-30) • Basketball



The engagement held June 13, 2022, focused on visioning for community activities that foster mutual care, inclusion, safety, health & belonging, and committees were formed to work on two agreed upon projects; the activation/placemaking in Cecelia Ravine Park and the creation of a Map of Burnside-Gorge Gems.

While the activation/placemaking in Cecelia Ravine Park was not realized, the project culminated in the Burnside-Gorge Community Gems community map.

REFUGEE READINESS TEAM COLLABORATION



The AEHCR joined the Refugee Readiness Team (RRT-VI) September 2022. The Alliance provided support for the development of multiple questionnaires and interview guides to collect housing information from displaced Ukrainians, settlement workers, those sponsoring refugees, those hosting displaced Ukrainians, and landlords on Vancouver Island. Funded by the Province of BC, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the RR-VI is collaborating with the Alliance to create a Regional Housing report that will be used to support the Refugee Readiness Team initiative.


PARK PEOPLE WEBINAR


The Alliance participated in the Accountability in Community Consultation and Impact Measurement webinar on March 8, 2023, hosted by Park People, presenting information on their Central Park/940 Caledonia case study. Engagement to Inform the City of Victoria Policy Regarding Encampments: Engaging People Sheltering Out-of-Doors was a Central Park Participatory Action case study that focused on engaging members of the unhoused community as collaborators and peer researchers, resulting in best practices developed from the learnings of the engagement.

**Accountability in
Community Consultation
and Impact Measurement**


**Adopter des pratiques responsables
lors de la création d'espaces:
de la consultation citoyenne à
l'évaluation des effets**

The Hilary & Galen Weston Foundation

 **TD READY
COMMITMENT**

 **ARC'TERYX**

 **park
people
amis des
parcs**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & THE ALLIANCE TABLES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

Co-Chair: Jeff Bray – Downtown Victoria Business Association

Co-Chair: Cliff McNeil-Smith – Mayor of Sidney

Treasurer: Emily Sluggett

Secretary: Sean Dhillon

Donald Kattler – Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness

Erika Stenson – United Way Southern Vancouver Island

Jennifer Fox – BC Housing TBC

Jill Alley – Person with Lived Experience

Kelly Reid – Island Health

Kevin Murdoch – Mayor of Oak Bay

Maja Tait – Mayor of Sooke

Sandra Richardson – Victoria Foundation

Troy Tucker – Person with Lived Experience

Ex-Officio: Don Elliott

THE ALLIANCE TABLES

Health & Housing Steering Committee

System Transformation Working Group

Lived & Living Experience Council

Community Data Dashboard Working Group

Best Practices Collective

Community Engagement & Communications Working Group

Youth Task Force





Financial Statements

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness
Society (dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the
Capital Region)

March 31, 2023

Contents

	Page
Independent Auditors' Report	1-2
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	4
Statement of Operations	5
Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7-12

Independent Auditors' Report

Grant Thornton LLP
Suite 650
1675 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC
V8W 2G5

T +1 250 383 4191
F +1 250 381 4623

To the members of Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society ("the Society"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society as at March 31, 2023, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, the accounting principles in the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a consistent basis.

Victoria, Canada
July 25, 2023



Chartered Professional Accountants

**Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society
(dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region)
Statement of Financial Position**

March 31

2023

2022

Assets

Current

Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5)	\$	171,903	\$	347,638
Accounts receivable		4,125		3,544
Government remittances receivable		3,120		3,120
Prepaid expenses and deposits		10,078		12,996
Short term investments		26,000		-
		<u>215,226</u>		<u>367,298</u>

Tangible capital assets (Note 3)		<u>194,186</u>		<u>578,680</u>
	\$	<u>409,412</u>	\$	<u>945,978</u>

Liabilities

Current


Payables and accruals	\$	39,367	\$	39,430
Deferred contributions (Note 4)		126,696		223,554
Deferred capital contributions (Note 5)		188,516		565,548
		<u>354,579</u>		<u>828,532</u>

Net Assets

Invested in capital assets		5,670		13,132
Unrestricted		<u>49,163</u>		<u>104,314</u>
		<u>54,833</u>		<u>117,446</u>
	\$	<u>409,412</u>	\$	<u>945,978</u>

Commitments (Note 10)

On behalf of the Board

 Director

 Director

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society
(dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region)
Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

Year ended March 31

2023

2022

	Invested in capital assets	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 13,132	\$ 104,314	\$ 117,446	\$ 169,308
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(7,462)	(55,151)	(62,613)	(51,862)
Additions to tangible capital assets less capital contributions received	-	-	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 5,670	\$ 49,163	\$ 54,833	\$ 117,446

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society (dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region) Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31	2023	2022
Revenue		
Government grants (Note 6)	\$ 1,114,104	\$ 2,035,285
Individual donations	199,728	270,097
Corporate donations	146,939	219,124
Contributions from other registered charities (Note 6)	101,155	70,401
Miscellaneous revenue	2,522	1,286
Membership fees	1,000	725
Interest	978	165
	<u>1,566,426</u>	<u>2,597,083</u>
Expenses		
Amortization	384,494	573,266
Communications and consultation	9,520	13,692
Council and committee meetings	10,104	7,296
General administration	58,461	64,983
Professional fees	25,313	20,724
Program expenses (Note 7)	615,932	1,427,166
Rent	72,495	65,364
Wages and benefits	452,720	476,454
	<u>1,629,039</u>	<u>2,648,945</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ <u>(62,613)</u>	\$ <u>(51,862)</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society (dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region) Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31

2023

2022

Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents

Operating

Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (62,613)	\$ (51,862)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(377,032)	(565,548)
Amortization	<u>384,494</u>	<u>573,266</u>
	<u>(55,151)</u>	<u>(44,144)</u>
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable	(581)	(2,109)
Government remittances receivable	-	2,383
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,918	(4,477)
Payables and accruals	(63)	(389,138)
Deferred contributions	<u>(96,858)</u>	<u>121,359</u>
	<u>(94,584)</u>	<u>(271,982)</u>
	<u>(149,735)</u>	<u>(316,126)</u>

Investing

Purchase of short term investments	(26,000)	-
Purchase of tangible capital assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(748,027)</u>
	<u>(26,000)</u>	<u>(748,027)</u>

Financing

Deferred capital contributions	<u>-</u>	<u>580,918</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>580,918</u>

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(175,735)	(483,235)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>347,638</u>	<u>830,873</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 171,903</u>	<u>\$ 347,638</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society (dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region) Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2023

1. Purpose of the Society

The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society (the "Society") was incorporated on July 25, 2008 under the Societies Act of British Columbia. In February 2023 the Society changed its operating name to the Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region and continues to do business under this name. The Society's purpose is to engage community organizations, governments and non-governmental agencies to work in partnership with each other and the broader community to lead and drive the commitment to end homelessness in the Capital Regional District of British Columbia. The Society received status as a registered charity effective April 1, 2009.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of presentation

The Society has prepared these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Revenue recognition

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Operating grant revenue is recognized in the year for which the grant is awarded. Accordingly, operating grant revenue awarded for periods subsequent to the current year is deferred to the next fiscal year.

Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and balances with banks and highly liquid temporary investments with maturities of three months or less.

Amortization

Rates and bases of amortization applied to write off the cost less estimated salvage value of capital assets over their estimated lives are as follows:

Furniture and equipment	20%, straight-line
Computer equipment	33-1/3%, straight-line
Leasehold improvements	Term of lease
Temporary shelter	Term of lease

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society (dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region) Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2023

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Use of estimates

In preparing the Society's financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the year. The more subjective of such estimates are the collection of accounts receivable, the useful life of tangible capital assets and the accrual of accounts payable and liabilities. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Financial instruments

The Society's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and payables and accruals.

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition and are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Society has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

Volunteers

Volunteers contribute an indeterminable number of hours to the Society across its operations. Since no objective basis exists for recording and assigning fair values to donated time, the value of this time has not been reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society (dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region) Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2023

3. Tangible capital assets

			2023	2022
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>	<u>Net book value</u>	<u>Net book value</u>
Furniture and equipment	\$ 12,428	\$ 12,428	\$ -	\$ 135
Computer equipment	66,969	61,216	5,753	11,065
Leasehold improvements	18,386	17,297	1,089	5,448
Temporary shelter	1,124,065	936,721	187,344	562,032
	<u>\$ 1,221,848</u>	<u>\$ 1,027,662</u>	<u>\$ 194,186</u>	<u>\$ 578,680</u>

4. Deferred contributions

Deferred contributions relate to restricted operating funding received that relate to future years.

	<u>BC Housing</u>	<u>City of Victoria</u>	<u>Island Health Authority</u>	<u>Canadian Mortgage and Housing</u>	<u>Non- Government</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 27,288	132,290	\$ 8,333	\$ 31,718	\$ 23,925	\$ 223,554
Received during the year	10,071	376,553	91,667	-	196,614	674,905
	37,359	508,843	100,000	31,718	220,539	898,459
Less: amounts recognized as revenue	37,359	501,532	100,000	31,718	101,155	771,764
Balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ 7,312	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 119,384	\$ 126,696

5. Deferred capital contributions

Hey Neighbour project: In the previous fiscal years the Society crowd-sourced funding from numerous individuals and local businesses and raised \$1,131,096 toward construction costs. These funds raised are being amortized into revenue over the life of the project. The amount recognized as revenue during the year is \$377,032 (2022: \$565,548).

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society (dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region) Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2023

6. Grants

The Society's major funding sources are from contributions received from other registered charities and grants received from government sources as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Government grants		
City of Victoria	\$ 605,816	\$ 322,896
Capital Regional District	321,311	402,167
Island Health	100,000	100,000
CMHC	49,418	60,902
BC Housing	37,359	1,126,445
Ministry of SDPR	<u>200</u>	<u>22,875</u>
	\$ 1,114,104	\$ 2,035,285
Contributions from other registered charities		
Burnside Gorge Community Association	\$ 36,962	\$ -
Victoria Foundation	29,333	38,526
Second Harvest Food Bank	18,200	-
Social Planning and Research Council	-	18,750
Other	<u>16,660</u>	<u>13,125</u>
	\$ 101,155	\$ 70,401

**Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society
(dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region)
Notes to the Financial Statements**

March 31, 2023

7. Program expenses	2023	2022
Program expenses consist of the following:		
Peer Housing Support	\$ 338,356	\$ 263,212
Face to Face with Stigma	151,634	80,076
National Housing Solutions	37,359	60,902
Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood Engagement	36,962	4,375
Sector Capacity Building	25,716	-
Inclusion & Collaboration	8,607	41,903
Extreme Weather Response	6,941	42,704
Documentary: 940 Caledonia	6,250	16,111
Youth Hostel Pilot	4,107	886,984
Community Laundry Pilot	-	22,414
Participatory Action Research	-	6,133
Youth Homelessness	-	2,351
	\$ 615,932	\$ 1,427,166

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Society (dba Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region) Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2023

8. Risk management

In the normal course of business, the Society is exposed to liquidity risk. The Society's primary risk management objective is to protect cash flow in order to support its operations. Risks are managed within limits ultimately established by the Society's Board of Directors and implemented by management.

The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, term deposits, accounts receivable, and payables and accruals approximates fair value due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial instruments. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments.

9. Remuneration

Under the new Societies Act, which came into effect November 28, 2016, societies must disclose remuneration paid to directors, and to employees and contractors whose remuneration was at least \$75,000 for the fiscal year. During the year, the Society paid no remuneration to directors.

During the year, one employee met this criterion who was paid total remuneration of \$107,827 (2022: \$88,038).

10. Commitments

The Society has operating leases with future minimum aggregate lease payments as follows:

2024	33,522
2025	18,405
2026	18,405
	<u>\$ 70,332</u>



535-645 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1G2

For further information about
the Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region,

please contact:
(236) 638-3683
admin@victoriahomelessness.ca

or visit our website:
www.victoriahomelessness.ca