

TO: Mayor & Council
FROM: Councillor Moglove
DATE: January 5, 2010
SUBJECT: Homelessness Task Force Recommendations

Recommendation:

1. *THAT Council endorse the principle of "housing first" including the provision of permanent low-barrier, supportive housing with a focus on harm reduction and forward this recommendation to the body that will undertake the work on homelessness.*
2. *THAT Council establish a temporary (up to three months) Homelessness Select Committee in January 2010, with a mandate to recommend the structure, membership and mandate of a permanent Community Homelessness Coalition; AND THAT the City provide funding for administrative support for the Homelessness Select Committee; AND FURTHER THAT the existing Homelessness Task Force form the temporary Select Committee.*
3. *THAT Council support the goal to work with all levels of government and community partners to secure or develop affordable long-term housing for an additional 50 people who meet the Task Force's definition of homelessness for each of the next five consecutive years and recommend as a term of reference for the Community Homelessness Coalition.*
4. *THAT the Community Homelessness Coalition's terms of reference include; developing an implementation plan for addressing the Task Force's Recommendation (#5) to work with Community Partners to enhance day-time services available for people who are homeless to include showers, laundry, lockers, washrooms and telephone access.*
5. *THAT Council consider using municipal owned land, that is not needed for other municipal needs, for affordable, supportive housing projects.*
6. *THAT Council direct staff to include an affordable housing strategy as part of the next OCP update.*
7. *THAT Council direct staff to develop density bonusing as part of an Affordable Housing Strategy and an amenity contribution policy.*
8. *THAT the Community Homelessness Coalition's terms of reference include; encouraging all levels of Government including Federal, Provincial, Regional and First Nations to work together and partner with each other and Non-Government Organizations to more effectively address homelessness issues by:*

1. Lobbying the **Federal Government** (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Service Canada, Corrections Canada, Canada Health Act) to:
 - a) Re-establish the National Strategy for Housing;
 - b) Increase the support and housing capacity for people being discharged from Federal institutions;
 - c) Implement The Mental Health Commission of Canada's homelessness initiatives;
 - d) Provide funding to alleviate homelessness for aboriginal people.

2. Lobbying the **Provincial Government** (Ministry of Housing and Social Development - BC Housing, Income Assistance, Housing Matters; Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Solicitor General, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance) to:
 - a) Secure or develop affordable long-term housing for an additional 50 people who meet the Task Force's definition of homelessness for each of the next five consecutive years;
 - b) Direct the current allocation of Property Purchase Transfer Tax into a community reserve fund;
 - c) Increase the support and housing capacity for people being discharged from correctional and psychiatric facilities;
 - d) Enhance the rental assistance program including funding levels, eligibility criteria, public awareness and timely approval process. (BC Housing);
 - e) Continue support for housing projects presently underway (i.e. Habitat for Humanity, Campbell River Assoc for Community Living and North Island Transition Society);
 - f) Provide equitable funding in rural/remote communities such as Campbell River in concert with larger urban communities;
 - g) Provide urgently needed secondary housing for recovering addicts that is safe and requires accountability on behalf of the occupants;
 - h) Increase financial support to people receiving income assistance (Ministry of Housing & Social Development).

3. Encouraging the **Vancouver Island Health Authority** (VIHA) to:
 - a) Work in partnership with BC Housing and other stakeholders such as the City and non-profit societies to provide a range of housing resources. This includes supported housing, residential (staffed) housing and emergency housing;
 - b) Ensure that plans for the new Campbell River hospital and the proposed mental health and addiction beds provide housing and supports with assertive community treatment services for those who will be discharged back into the community;
 - c) Ensure that plans for our new Campbell River hospital provide for a sobering and assessment centre and medical detox centre;
 - d) Establish an assertive community treatment (ACT) team (VIHA "reducing homelessness," January 2008 and BC's Mental Health Reform Best Practices for Assertive Community Treatment) to work with people most at risk of homelessness;
 - e) Ensure necessary health and dental services are accessible and available to all in our community, including those who are homeless.

Background:

The City's Homelessness Task Force was created in February 2009 to examine the issue of homelessness and provide Council with recommendations on how to alleviate the problem.

The Task Force presented its report and 10 recommendations (Appendix A) to City Council on October 6, 2009. Council discussed the recommendations in detail at its October 13, 2009 Strategic Committee meeting and requested that Staff comment on implementation of the recommendations. Staff provided its report and recommendations (Appendix B) to Council at the December 8, 2009 Strategic Committee meeting. During this meeting Council adopted a number of recommendations (Appendix C) and requested that I meet with the Task Force to obtain feedback on the recommendations before they are considered at a regular meeting of Council.

On December 16, 2009 I met with the Homelessness Task Force to review each of Council's recommendations. As a result of the discussion the Task Force has requested further refinements to four of Council's recommendations (Appendix D).

This remainder of this report will review the recommendations made by Council at its December 8th Strategic Committee meeting and those changes proposed by the Homelessness Task Force.

Discussion:

1. *THAT Council endorse the principle of "housing first" including the provision of permanent low-barrier, supportive housing with a focus on harm reduction and forward this recommendation to the body that will undertake the work on homelessness. (the Task Force supports this recommendation)*
2. *THAT Council establish a temporary (up to six months) Homelessness Select Committee in January 2010, with a mandate to recommend the structure, membership and mandate of a permanent Community Homelessness Coalition; AND THAT the City provide funding for administrative support for the Homelessness Select Committee.*

The Task Force feels that it is in an excellent position to recommend the structure, membership and mandate of a permanent Community Homelessness Coalition and recommends that it be given this task instead of the City going to the effort to appoint a new select committee. The Task Force also believes that it could accomplish this task in three (3) months instead of the proposed six (6) months and recommends that the resolution be revised to state;

THAT Council establish a temporary (up to three months) Homelessness Select Committee in January 2010, with a mandate to recommend the structure, membership and mandate of a permanent Community Homelessness Coalition; AND THAT the City provide funding for administrative support for the Homelessness Select Committee; AND FURTHER THAT the existing Homelessness Task Force form the temporary Select Committee.

3. *THAT Council support the goal to work with all levels of government and community partners to secure or develop affordable long-term housing for an additional 50 people who meet the Task Force's definition of homelessness for each of the next five consecutive years and recommend as a term of reference for the Community Homelessness Coalition. (the Task Force supports this recommendation)*
4. *THAT Council request the interim Select Committee to give priority to developing an implementation plan for addressing the Task Force's Recommendation (#5) to work with Community Partners to enhance daytime services available for people who are homeless to include showers, laundry, lockers, washrooms and telephone access.*

The Task Force felt that this initiative would be best accomplished by the Community Homelessness Coalition because it will involve working with all community partners. It therefore recommends that the resolution be revised to state;

THAT the Community Homelessness Coalition's terms of reference include; developing an implementation plan for addressing the Task Force's Recommendation (#5) to work with Community Partners to enhance day-time services available for people who are homeless to include showers, laundry, lockers, washrooms and telephone access.

5. *THAT Council consider using municipal owned land for affordable, supportive housing projects that is not needed for other municipal needs.*

The Task Force recommends that the resolution be grammatically revised to state;

THAT Council consider using municipal owned land, that is not needed for other municipal needs, for affordable, supportive housing projects.

6. *THAT Council direct staff to include an affordable housing strategy as part of the next OCP update. (the Task Force supports this recommendation)*
7. *THAT Council direct staff to develop density bonussing as part of an Affordable Housing Strategy and an amenity contribution policy. (the Task Force supports this recommendation)*
8. *THAT the decision that Council support the goal to encourage all levels of government to work together and partner with non-government organizations to be more effective in addressing homelessness as part of the terms of reference for the selected advocacy body be deferred pending Council's meeting with the Homelessness Task Force.*

The Task Force felt that this resolution did not contain the important details that were part of the original resolution related to lobbying senior levels of government. The Task Force worked very hard to identify issues that need to be undertaken by senior government and feel strongly that these issues need to be highlighted in Council's recommendation. The Task Force therefore recommended that the resolution be revised to state;

THAT the Community Homelessness Coalition's terms of reference include; encouraging all levels of Government including Federal, Provincial, Regional and First Nations to work together and partner with each other and Non-Government Organizations to more effectively address homelessness issues by:

1. Lobbying the **Federal Government** (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Service Canada, Corrections Canada, Canada Health Act) to:
 - a) Re-establish the National Strategy for Housing;
 - b) Increase the support and housing capacity for people being discharged from Federal institutions;
 - c) Implement The Mental Health Commission of Canada's homelessness initiatives;
 - d) Provide funding to alleviate homelessness for aboriginal people.

2. Lobbying the **Provincial Government** (Ministry of Housing and Social Development - BC Housing, Income Assistance, Housing Matters; Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Solicitor General, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance) to:
 - a) Secure or develop affordable long-term housing for an additional 50 people who meet the Task Force's definition of homelessness for each of the next five consecutive years;
 - b) Direct the current allocation of Property Purchase Transfer Tax into a community reserve fund;
 - c) Increase the support and housing capacity for people being discharged from correctional and psychiatric facilities;
 - d) Enhance the rental assistance program including funding levels, eligibility criteria, public awareness and timely approval process. (BC Housing);
 - e) Continue support for housing projects presently underway (i.e. Habitat for Humanity, Campbell River Assoc for Community Living and North Island Transition Society);
 - f) Provide equitable funding in rural/remote communities such as Campbell River in concert with larger urban communities;
 - g) Provide urgently needed secondary housing for recovering addicts that is safe and requires accountability on behalf of the occupants;
 - h) Increase financial support to people receiving income assistance (Ministry of Housing & Social Development).

3. Encouraging the **Vancouver Island Health Authority** (VIHA) to:
 - a) Work in partnership with BC Housing and other stakeholders such as the City and non-profit societies to provide a range of housing resources. This includes supported housing, residential (staffed) housing and emergency housing;
 - b) Ensure that plans for the new Campbell River hospital and the proposed mental health and addiction beds provide housing and supports with assertive community treatment services for those who will be discharged back into the community;
 - c) Ensure that plans for our new Campbell River hospital provide for a sobering and assessment centre and medical detox centre;
 - d) Establish an assertive community treatment (ACT) team (VIHA "reducing homelessness," January 2008 and BC's Mental Health Reform Best Practices for Assertive Community Treatment) to work with people most at risk of homelessness;
 - e) Ensure necessary health and dental services are accessible and available to all in our community, including those who are homeless.

Options

Option 1: Adopt the Homelessness Task Force recommendations presented in this report.

Option 2: Amend and adopt the Homelessness Task Force recommendations presented in this report.

Option 3: Adopt the recommendations made by Council at its December 8th Strategic Committee meeting (Appendix 'C').

Operational Considerations:

The continuation of the Homelessness Task Force or the establishment of a Select Committee for a 3-month period will require staff and clerical support. This will not require any additional financial resources but it will require staff time of approximately 4 to 8 hours per week. The establishment of a long-term Community Homelessness Coalition will require financial and staff resources if the City intends on playing a leadership role. It is suggested that Council will be in a better position to assess the operational considerations of a permanent homelessness coalition once its terms or reference have been developed.

Communications:

The Homelessness Task Force and local stakeholder groups will be advised of Council's decision.

Respectfully submitted,



Claire I. Moglove
Council Liaison to Homelessness Task Force

PW/db

APPENDIX 'A'

Recommendations from the September 2009 Homelessness Task Force Report that were received by Council at its October 6, 2009 meeting.

1. *Adopt "Housing First," as the guiding principle in all matters relating to homelessness.*
2. *Establish, by year-end 2009, a Select Committee to address homelessness in Campbell River.*
3. *Appoint a person to coordinate the function of the committee and to liaise between the various agencies, all levels of government and the City of Campbell River by year-end 2009.*
4. *Work with all levels of government and community partners to secure or develop affordable long-term housing for an additional 50 people who meet the Task Force's definition of homelessness for each of the next five consecutive years.*
5. *Work with community partners to enhance day-time services available for people who are homeless to include showers, laundry, lockers, washrooms and telephone access by Spring 2010.*
6. *Continue to provide land for the development of affordable, supportive housing.*
7. *Amend the Zoning Bylaw by the end of 2010 to permit secondary suites, rooming houses and other housing options throughout the City.*
8. *Amend the City's Official Community Plan to provide incentives such as density bonusing and taxation options to encourage the development of affordable housing.*
9. *Establish a reserve fund that would be used to support homelessness initiatives such as providing cash incentives for creation of secondary suites by year-end 2010.*
10. *Endorse recommendations to alleviate homelessness as outlined in Section 8.B.(1) (2) (3) to be submitted as resolutions to the 2010 annual general meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities and the Union of B.C. Municipalities*

APPENDIX 'B'

Recommendations from Staff's report presented to Council at its December 8, 2009 Strategic Committee meeting.

1. *THAT Council "endorse the principle to base all strategies on the building principle of "housing first" including the provision of permanent low-barrier, supportive housing with a focus on harm reduction and forward this recommendation to the body that will undertake the work on homelessness".*
2. *THAT Council establish a temporary (up to six months) Homelessness Advisory Commission or Select committee with a mandate to recommend the structure, membership and mandate of a permanent Community Homelessness Coalition and that funding for providing administrative support be considered in the 2010 municipal budget.*
3. *THAT Council support the goal to work with all levels of government and community partners to secure or develop affordable long-term housing for an additional 50 people who meet the Task Force's definition of homelessness for each of the next five consecutive years as a terms of reference for the selected advocacy body.*
4. *THAT Council decide to:*
 - a) *request the interim advocacy body to give priority to developing an implementation plan for addressing the Task Force's Recommendation (#5) to work with Community Partners to enhance day-time services available for people who are homeless to include showers, laundry, lockers, washrooms and telephone access;*

OR

- b) *direct staff to bring a further report to budget deliberations to determine and authorize appropriate resources to undertake the Task Force's Recommendation (#5) to work with Community Partners to enhance day-time services available for people who are homeless to include showers, laundry, lockers, washrooms and telephone access.*
5. *THAT Council consider using municipal owned land for affordable, supportive housing projects where such land exists and is not needed for other municipal needs.*
6. *THAT Council direct staff to include an affordable housing strategy as part of the next OCP update.*
7. *THAT Council direct staff to develop density bonusing as part of an Affordable Housing Strategy and an amenity contribution policy.*
8. *THAT Council direct staff to establish a reserve fund for homelessness initiatives once sources of possible funding have been identified.*
9. *THAT Council support the goal to encourage all levels of government to work together and partner with non-government organizations to be more effective in addressing homelessness as part of the terms of reference for the selected advocacy body.*
10. *THAT Council meet with the Homelessness Task Force to discuss staff recommendations prior to making a final decision.*

APPENDIX 'C'

Recommendations adopted by Council at its December 8, 2009 Strategic Committee meeting.

1. *THAT Council endorse the principle of "housing first" including the provision of permanent low-barrier, supportive housing with a focus on harm reduction and forward this recommendation to the body that will undertake the work on homelessness.*
2. *THAT Council establish a temporary (up to six months) Homelessness Select Committee in January 2010, with a mandate to recommend the structure, membership and mandate of a permanent Community Homelessness Coalition; AND THAT the City provide funding for administrative support for the Homelessness Select Committee.*
3. *THAT Council support the goal to work with all levels of government and community partners to secure or develop affordable long-term housing for an additional 50 people who meet the Task Force's definition of homelessness for each of the next five consecutive years and recommend as a term of reference for the Community Homelessness Coalition.*
4. *THAT Council request the interim Select Committee to give priority to developing an implementation plan for addressing the Task Force's Recommendation (#5) to work with Community Partners to enhance daytime services available for people who are homeless to include showers, laundry, lockers, washrooms and telephone access.*
5. *THAT Council consider using municipal owned land for affordable, supportive housing projects that is not needed for other municipal needs.*
6. *THAT Council direct staff to include an affordable housing strategy as part of the next OCP update.*
7. *THAT Council direct staff to develop density bonusing as part of an Affordable Housing Strategy and an amenity contribution policy.*
8. *THAT the decision that Council support the goal to encourage all levels of government to work together and partner with non-government organizations to be more effective in addressing homelessness as part of the terms of reference for the selected advocacy body be deferred pending Council's meeting with the Homelessness Task Force.*
9. *THAT Councillor Moglove meet with the Homelessness Task Force to discuss Council's recommendations.*

APPENDIX 'D'

Recommendations proposed by the Homelessness Task Force at its December 16, 2009 meeting with Councillor Moglove.

1. THAT Council endorse the principle of "housing first" including the provision of permanent low-barrier, supportive housing with a focus on harm reduction and forward this recommendation to the body that will undertake the work on homelessness.
2. THAT Council establish a temporary (up to three months) Homelessness Select Committee in January 2010, with a mandate to recommend the structure, membership and mandate of a permanent Community Homelessness Coalition;
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 1. Lobbying the **Federal Government** (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Service Canada, Corrections Canada, Canada Health Act) to:
 - a) Re-establish the National Strategy for Housing;
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2. Lobbying the **Provincial Government** (Ministry of Housing and Social Development - BC Housing, Income Assistance, Housing Matters; Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Solicitor General, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance) to:

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- c) Increase the support and housing capacity for people being discharged from correctional and psychiatric facilities;
- d) Enhance the rental assistance program including funding levels, eligibility criteria, public awareness and timely approval process. (BC Housing);
- e) Continue support for housing projects presently underway (i.e. Habitat for Humanity, Campbell River Assoc for Community Living and North Island Transition Society);
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- a) Work in partnership with BC Housing and other stakeholders such as the City and non-profit societies to provide a range of housing resources. This includes supported housing, residential (staffed) housing and emergency housing;
- b) Ensure that plans for the new Campbell River hospital and the proposed mental health and addiction beds provide housing and supports with assertive community treatment services for those who will be discharged back into the community;
- c) Ensure that plans for our new Campbell River hospital provide for a sobering and assessment centre and medical detox centre;
- d) Establish an assertive community treatment (ACT) team (VIHA "reducing homelessness," January 2008 and BC's Mental Health Reform Best Practices for Assertive Community Treatment) to work with people most at risk of homelessness;
- e) Ensure necessary health and dental services are accessible and available to all in our community, including those who are homeless.