

May 4, 2009

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### **Homelessness Task Force Calls for Community Input During Public Meeting**

The City's Homelessness task force is calling for input from community agencies and members of the public to help formulate recommendations to City Council.

*"Input from our community's diverse organizations and interested members of the public, including from homeless people themselves, will provide valuable insight and information to the task force,"* says Councillor Claire Moglove, the task force's Council liaison. *"To ensure our work is as comprehensive and helpful as possible, we are going to hold a public meeting to allow interested people to share their experiences and information with us."*

Councillor Moglove urges community organizations, agencies and others interested in improving conditions for homeless people to attend the meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Radiant Life Community Church (downtown at 1251 Cypress Street). Light refreshments will be served.

In the meantime, with the assistance of local social service agencies, the task force will conduct a survey of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. *"We are gathering information that will provide a better understanding of the extent of homelessness in Campbell River and we are looking for suggestions of ways that the issue might be addressed,"* says Councillor Moglove. *"We hope to have the survey results in time to share at the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting."*

The City's Homelessness Task Force was established in February of this year with a mandate to review the extent of homelessness in Campbell River and the number, current roles and funding sources of various agencies involved with the issue. The task force will also look at possible future partners and funding sources, as well as the current role and contributions of the Federal and Provincial governments and the City of Campbell River.

The task force has been asked to make recommendations regarding the coordination of current service providers and potential partners; possible solutions to the issue of homelessness in Campbell River; and the roles of the various levels of governments and the City of Campbell River in reaching those possible solutions.

The task force is expected to provide a report outlining its recommendations by June 16, 2009.

Members of the task force are: Dr. Dick Patterson, Dale Blackburn, Leslie MacLennan, Pastor Art Van Holst, Terry Falk, Cpl. Brian Brown, Tara Goodless Mason and Wendy Tyrer.

– 30 –

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