

February 5, 2009

Council Appoints Homelessness Task Force

As promised in Mayor Charlie Cornfield's inaugural speech in December, Campbell River's task force on homelessness has been established.

At Tuesday's meeting, City Council approved terms of reference and appointed eight members to the task force to help alleviate homelessness. The task force will be asked to provide a report outlining recommendations by June 16, 2009.

"The scope of this task force will cover all sectors of the community, and we'll be seeking input from all stakeholders," emphasizes Councillor Claire Moglove, the task force's Council liaison. *"I look forward to our work being as comprehensive and helpful as possible."*

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

"Each member of the task force has a solid history in and understanding of our community, plus a well-rooted local knowledge about the challenges related to homelessness in Campbell River," Councillor Moglove states. *"They bring a complementary perspective, and in some cases, decades of experience working with homeless people – from soup kitchens, homeless shelters, social work and policing, to mental health, addiction and housing services."*

The task force will 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 will be 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 role of the Federal and Provincial governments and the City of Campbell River in reaching those possible solutions.

"VIHA prepared a report in January 2008 that could be used as the starting point for the task force," explains Councillor Moglove. *"Also, some members of the task force represent organizations that have additional information to share, and this will be a valuable first step."*

"Public participation from our community's diverse organizations and groups will be a significant part of the task force's work," she emphasizes. *"Our community has an extensive list of people who will be contacted to assist the task force by providing valuable insight and information."*

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