

# 2022 Homelessness Action Plan Presentation

CITY OF ABBOTSFORD





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# VISION

**Abbotsford is a city where everyone has a home.**

The Homelessness Action Plan (HAP) is the City's internal strategy document to address homelessness in Abbotsford. It includes immediate actions and future initiatives to be led or supported by the City.



# Action Framework



## Goal #1

Strengthen Community-Based Services and Programs



## Goal #2

Enhance Abbotsford's Internal Responses to Homelessness by Strengthening Policy, Developing Staff Capacity, and Augmenting the Use of City Facilities to Address Homelessness



## Goal #3

Coordinate and Convene Service and Housing Providers to Strengthen Responses to Homelessness in Abbotsford



## Goal #4

Advocate for stronger federal and provincial support



## Goal #5

Develop and Implement New Strategies for Better Tracking and Understanding Progress on Homelessness



# Engagement Approach

## 6 Stakeholder Workshops

33 participants, including frontline and community service providers, businesses, First Nations and Métis rightsholders, shelter providers and institutional partners

## 8 Lived Experience Interviews

Eight individuals with lived experience of homelessness

## 9 Stakeholder interviews

18 participants

## Stakeholder feedback workshops

19 participants



# Goal #1

Strengthen Community-Based Services and Programs





## GOAL #1: Strengthen Community-based Services and Programs

- Work internally and with external partners to identify and prioritize lands for affordable housing projects (e.g. provincial agencies, opportunities on City land, etc.)
- Explore ways for the City to assist community-based services in providing supports that are culturally-responsive through a needs assessment and continued advocacy for more resources
- Build partnerships to support research, capacity building and education projects
- Help community-based services access funding by monitoring and communicating these opportunities



# Goal #2

Enhance Abbotsford's  
Internal Responses to  
Homelessness  
(Internal Capacity)





## GOAL #2: Enhance Abbotsford's Internal Responses to Homelessness (Internal Capacity)

- Strengthen the City's policies and programs to better meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness
  - Build this lens into any policy or bylaw updates (e.g. City's emergency response plans)
  - Explore opportunities for more inclusive access to City-owned assets
- Assist affordable and supportive housing projects through City processes
  - Explore opportunities to prioritize key affordable housing projects through development approvals
- Invest in City staff's capacity and ability to address homelessness through training and staffing
- Partner and engage with residents and businesses (e.g. increase opportunities to work with BEAP, strengthen engagement frameworks for residents and businesses)





# Goal #3

Coordinate and Convene  
Service and Housing  
Providers to Strengthen  
Responses to  
Homelessness in Abbotsford





## GOAL #3: Coordinate and Convene Service and Housing Providers to Strengthen Responses to Homelessness in Abbotsford

- Bring government, frontline, and community-based services together through regular communications and meetings (e.g. strengthen collaboration and coordinated system of care, work with bylaw and police around supports during enforcement)





# Goal #4

Advocate for Stronger  
Federal and Provincial  
Support





## GOAL #4: Advocate for Stronger Federal and Provincial Support

- Highlight Abbotsford's successes in addressing homelessness to stakeholders and senior government
- Advocate to senior levels of government for funding to fill gaps in service, particularly complex care housing, population-specific services, and mental health supports for frontline staff



# Goal #5

Develop and Implement  
New Strategies for Better  
Tracking, Understanding,  
and Communicating  
Progress on Homelessness





## GOAL #5: Develop and Implement New Strategies for Better Tracking, Understanding, and Communicating Progress on Homelessness

- Measure and communicate progress to help anticipate future need and fill gaps
  - Develop a by-name registry and it to help understand and communicate progress on addressing homelessness
- Engage and update the community of Abbotsford on the Homelessness Action Plan through a focused communications strategy



# Homelessness Action Plan

For a complete version of the HAP please see:  
<https://www.abbotsford.ca/community-events/housing-homelessness-community-development/homelessness-action-plan>