



NEWS RELEASE

Council Announces Task Force on Homelessness

Abbotsford, March 20, 2014 – “Abbotsford City Council has struck a Task Force on Homelessness to address multiple issues related to homelessness in our community, announced Mayor, Bruce Banman today.

“Council created the Task Force on Homelessness to address the issues before our community from a holistic perspective,” said Banman. “We need to examine not only the conditions and responses to homelessness that exist in Abbotsford today, but address the steps we need to take to meet the requirements in our community going forward.”

The Task Force will operate as a Committee of Council and will be co-chaired by long-time Abbotsford City Councillors Patricia Ross and John Smith.

“This is an immediate undertaking to identify short, medium and long-term strategies to address homelessness issues in Abbotsford,” said Banman. “The Task Force has been charged with designing and initiating a comprehensive community-wide homelessness response plan working in full consultation with all community partners including BC Housing, the Fraser Health Authority, the service community and the business community.”

Members of the Task Force also include representation from MCC, the Food Bank, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Abbotsford Christian Leaders Network and the Abbotsford Police Department.

“The Task Force will be working very closely with all levels in the community and conducting multiple engagement activities to ensure they capture all perspectives and all voices,” said Banman. “They will be the forum through which the community discusses the issue of homelessness in the City of Abbotsford.”

The first meeting of the Task Force will take place early April 2014. Members of Council’s Task Force on Homelessness are named in the attached Backgrounder.

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BACKGROUNDER

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