

ABBOTSFORD

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CHAPTER: COUNCIL

SECTION: COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

SUBJECT: HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

APPROVED BY: COUNCIL

EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2014

**REVISION
DATE:**

Introduction

The City of Abbotsford faces challenges, like many other cities, related to the housing and support needs of vulnerable citizens. In addressing these challenges, there is a need for a multi-jurisdictional approach (ie Federal, Provincial, Fraser Health Authority, and various service providers) to develop a “grass roots” approach to the issue. Building on important community initiatives and research, the City is forming a Task Force to facilitate collaboration around new ideas and immediate actions to address these challenges.

PURPOSE

The Task Force on Homelessness in Abbotsford will examine the conditions and responses to homelessness that exist in Abbotsford to date, as well as the steps to address homelessness and housing issues in Abbotsford. The *Homelessness Task Force* will work to identify opportunities to increase affordable housing with a focus on housing first for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Housing First Task Force will offer a number of innovative recommendations based on research that will enable the City of Abbotsford to better address the homelessness issues facing the City.

AUTHORITY

Council, *Community Charter*, Section 142
Local Government Act

MANDATE

The Homelessness Task Force has the mandate to address homelessness and related issues in Abbotsford. The task force will design a comprehensive community wide homelessness response plan working with our partners at BC Housing, the Fraser Health Authority, Provincial ministries, the business community, service providers and the homeless. The Homelessness Task Force will publish a Quick Start Report in June 2014. This report will provide preliminary assessment of opportunities on the homelessness housing issue in Abbotsford. A Final Action Report will be published in September 2014.

The Task Force will report to City Council on May 26, 2014 on preliminary findings and will submit a final action report to Council for September 8, 2014.

The Task Force will require its members to exercise Duty of Loyalty and Duty of Care by identifying and / or avoiding potential conflicts of pecuniary interest in compliance with the Municipal Act; by taking responsible action in good faith and in the best interest of the City of Abbotsford; and otherwise acting in an ethical manner.

Principles

- Collaboration with key stakeholders including those who are also homeless;
- Collaboration with community and business partners;
- Recognition that solutions to homelessness are based on three essential elements: housing, support services and adequate income;

- Support for a “housing first” approach, which provides stable housing and support services to end homelessness while meeting emergency shelter needs;
- Collaboration on planning for service provision to ensure that essential services meet a wide range of needs.

Goals and Objectives

- To develop and implement a strategic work plan focusing on prevention, advocacy, facilitation and education;
- To build government support and work with the three levels of government to address issues of housing and homelessness;
- To maintain and grow the ability to address issues of housing and homelessness in Abbotsford;
- To provide for coordination of initiatives to prevent and address homelessness within the City of Abbotsford and build the capacity of service providers and local groups to respond effectively and to enhance their services.

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Task Force shall consist of up to 12 voting members.
2. All members shall be appointed by Council for a five-month term.
3. Members shall serve without remuneration.
4. Members may be reimbursed for authorized direct and appropriate expenses incurred in the fulfillment of Task Force responsibilities.
5. At the conclusion of service the task force will be decommissioned.

The Task Force shall consist of the following:

A. “At large” Community Members

- There will be six “at large” community members, representing the business, community service and faith sectors
- Two representatives from the Fraser Health Authority
- One Representative from BC Housing
- The Police Chief

B. City Council – 2 Councillors

C. Project Coordinator

D. City Staff

- Staff support for this Task Force will be provided by the Deputy City Manager. Additional staff and/or consultants may be invited to provide technical advice and assistance on specific projects.

PROCEDURE

1. The *Council Procedure Bylaw* applies to all Task Force meetings for all of the City’s Task Forces, Committees, Commissions and Boards referred to in the *Community Charter*.

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2. A quorum shall be a majority of the total voting membership.
3. The Task Force shall hold regular meetings, at such time and place as determined by the Task Force, at least bi-weekly from May to September and at other times as it considers necessary.
4. Members will be expected to attend at least 75% of the meetings.
5. The Task Force will report to Council.
6. The meetings shall be open meetings.
7. The Task Force may review these Terms of Reference and propose amendments for consideration of Council.
8. Minutes of the Task Force shall be recorded by the Economic Development and Planning Services Department for information of Council.

MEMBERSHIP

Name and Organization	Term
City Council	
Councillor Smith	April to September 2014
Councillor Ross	April to September 2014
Members	
Karen Matty, Matsqui Developments No alternate	April to September 2014
Ron Van Wyk, Mennonite Central Task Force BC No alternate	April to September 2014
Mike Welte, President, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Josh Bach, Vice President of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce	April to September 2014
Keir Macdonald, Operations Manager No alternate	April to September 2014
Dave Murray, Coordinator, Abbotsford Food Bank Ross Siemens Chamber of Commerce	April to September 2014
Jim Burkinshaw, Abbotsford Christian Leadership Network Vance Eden, Abbotsford Christian Leadership Network	April to September 2014

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Stan Kuperis, Director of Clinical Programs Mental Health and Substance Use with Fraser Health

April to September 2014

Bob LaRoy, Manager, Mental Health and Substance Use for the communities of Abbotsford and Mission

Lawrence Loh, Medical Health Officer at Fraser Health

April to September 2014

Dr. Marcus Lem, Medical Health Officer at Fraser Health Authority (Fraser East)

Joyce McElhoe, Abbotsford Director Cyrus Centre

April to September 2014

Les Talvio, Executive Director Cyrus Centre

City Staff/Consultant – Additional staff may be invited to assist with specific agenda items

Jake Rudolph
Deputy City Manager

Bob Rich
Chief, Abbotsford Police Department

Rick Lucy
Deputy Chief, Abbotsford Police Department

Cherie Enns
Social Planning Consultant