

Task Force on Homelessness

Key Strategic Directions and Priority Actions



1. Facilitate a Housing First Approach

1.1 Promote partnerships with organizations to provide more housing across the spectrum by hiring an experienced Housing and Homeless Coordinator to implement the Homelessness Action Plan

Abbotsford City Council should immediately create a staff coordinator position responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Homelessness, including the implementation of community based one-stop housing first system for the purpose of better coordination of housing and support for vulnerable residents. The coordinator would be the City's staff representative at the Homelessness and Housing Advisory Committee (see point 5.1). The coordinator should be tasked with liaising with all government agencies, seeking funding (Federal, Provincial, local, etc.), liaising with all other non-profit agencies, First Nations, non-profit agencies and other government agencies and offices, including Parole and Employment Assistance.

1.2 Initiate the development of a procurement plan for housing across the spectrum

Within the City of Abbotsford there are a range of housing options with needs identified in each category. For the purpose of this Action Plan the idea of housing spectrum respects the reality that people do not always move through the continuum and that a 'Housing First' approach requires opportunities to enter housing or to be 'rehoused' at the most appropriate point. The City will work with government agencies and community organizations to support development of housing across the spectrum.

2. Advocate for housing and wrap-around support

2.1 Lobby for an Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACT)

The City of Abbotsford should work closely with Fraser Health Authority and the Provincial government to implement an ACT team, serving the central Fraser Valley region.

2.2 Foster the concept of Wrap-Around Support

The City of Abbotsford should continue to work closely with Fraser Health Authority and the Provincial government to provide improved comprehensive and coordinated support for homeless and those at-risk of homelessness both BEFORE and AFTER they are housed.

3. Initiate a Prevention Program

3.1 Initiate a Training and Prevention Program

The City of Abbotsford should continue to work closely with non-profit agencies, the University of the Fraser Valley and School District to consider both training and homelessness prevention programs, including research and evaluation of all proposed initiatives.



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3.2 Enhance the Application Process for Recovery Homes

The City of Abbotsford should institute processes to ensure that Recovery Home applications for established proven operators be fast tracked.

3.3 Advocate for Discharge Practices that Support Prevention of Homelessness

Abbotsford City Council should advocate for the establishment of provincial and federal systems that prevent practices of discharging into homelessness.

3.4 Adopt Policies to support Scattered Site and Small Housing Programs

The City of Abbotsford should support the development of scattered site and small housing programs.

3.5 Continue to Implement Affordable Housing Strategy

Continue implementation of the 2011 City of Abbotsford's Affordable Housing Strategy and integrate with other city plans and bylaws to provide the social lens to all City efforts in order to enhance the supply of housing across the housing spectrum.

3.6 Support Improved Food Security

Support improved health and welfare through the implementation of food security programs with an important focus on families living in poverty.

4. Create a culture of awareness, inclusiveness and respect

4.1 Promote a culture of awareness

Abbotsford City Council, in partnership with other relevant organizations, should institute a community education and awareness program, which could include training and technical assistance and other events to help solidify core values and principles of the Housing First Model.

4.2 Initiate a Dialogue on Community Engagement and Volunteerism

Initiate a Community Campaign related to implementation of this Action Plan, as well as a community based employment initiative for those who homeless or at risk of homelessness.

5. Foster collaboration between agencies, community and government

5.1 Establish a Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee

Abbotsford City Council should immediately establish a standing Committee of Council comprised of stakeholder agencies (similar in composition to the Homelessness Task Force) to continue the work of the Task Force. The committee would act to advise Council on issue of Homelessness going forward.

5.2 Establish a Housing First Centre

Establish a housing first centre that will act as a hub where organizations can connect over funding and research related to housing and support for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



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