



# Housing First and Homelessness in Abbotsford Task Force Coordination

## City of Abbotsford

### Proposed Work Plan

#### March 15, 2014-October 15, 2014

#### 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 (i.e. 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.

**The specific objectives of the proposed consultancy are to coordinate a Housing First Task Force for the City of Abbotsford including a strategy related to initiatives identified as priorities in background report presented to City Council March 10, 2014.**








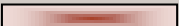





**The specific objectives of the proposed consultancy are to coordinate the 'Housing First and Homelessness' Task Force for the City of Abbotsford including designing and initiating implementation of a strategy related to initiatives identified as priorities in background report presented to City Council March 10, 2014.**

Immediate Tasks	Medium	Long
Lobby senior governments to become a designated community for homelessness funding. Lobby BC Housing to access remaining 2 million MOU funding.	Investigate homelessness options such as shipping container shelters, out from the cold, daytime shelter strategies, temporary dignity village, and mobile wood boxes for storage.	Implement a comprehensive community wide homelessness response plan working with all community partners including the business community.
Participate in the regional homelessness count. Initiate implementation plan for Abbotsford Affordable Housing Plan. Hold a forum to shape and inform policy and protocols then formalize with Council.	Engage in dialogue and community engagement. Hire city community outreach workers as part of a community development team. Implement Abbotsford Affordable Housing Plan	Community Education facilitate community wide education including learning units/curriculum as part of the City of Character program and/or Social Justice related courses partnering with School District 34 and planning and policy courses at UFV.
Create a task force to develop a comprehensive and integrative community wide campaign that could build on innovative and ingenious approaches used elsewhere.	Access funding from Affordable Housing Fund to solicit creative and innovative proposals to address most immediate needs.(Housing Fund as one possible funding source for a housing first option)	Partner with landlords and service providers to offer housing in new locations including existing underutilized structures and scattered housing strategies.
Develop a City Council policy on homeless camps. Collaborate with community partners to identify partners and facilitate options for drop-in centres and no barrier shelter/housing first alternatives.	Close homeless camps working with outreach workers using an updated protocol with quick response option. Look at real costs and impacts of homelessness then meet with key partners including Fraser Health to consider funding strategies and best practices/funding elsewhere in province.	Train staff for dealing with hazardous waste. Offer sensitivity education to staff interacting with people who are homeless.

# Proposed Housing First Task Force Work Plan



Proposed TIMELINE-To Be Developed Further

Item	April-June	July-Aug	Sept-October
1. Finalize Task Force Members/TOR			
2. Revise Homelessness Background Report			
3. Confirm/Coordinate Monthly Meetings and Email Working Groups			
<b>Phase 1 – Community meetings and strategizing</b>			
1. Meet with Key Stakeholders-including homeless/advocates-Prioritize Work Plan/Report to Council (May 26th)			
2. Research on Options(Student Projects)			
3. C Enns research on options and alternative funding/ models/sources			
4. Housing First Interim Shelter initiated-City Housing Fund Seed Money/Community Partners /Site Tours			
5. Housing First Project Initiated working with community partners including BC Housing Funding- Launch Housing First Project			
<b>Phase 2 – Community Plan Development</b>			
1. Organize Senior Government Lobby-Homelessness Designation			
2. Community Wide Forum, Campaign and Interactive Website Development			
3. Workshops with Stakeholders			
4. Draft a Work Plan and Strategy for all Homelessness Recommendations not yet Initiated/Clear Matrix of Responsibility			
<b>Organizational needs and continued coordination</b>			
1. City Resources: Meeting Facilitation, Minutes and Coordination of Task Force Activities including Forum and Work Shop Sessions/advertisement Cherie Enns: Hourly Rate, budget for student projects, workshops, stakeholder consultation Website, graphic design and campaign logo TBD	Monthly Meetings/ dinner or breakfast		