
NEWS RELEASE

City of Abbotsford allocates more than \$1.78 million for homelessness prevention projects

ABBOTSFORD – March 18, 2024 - Through federal Reaching Home program funding, the City of Abbotsford has been able to allocate more than \$1.78 million in funding for projects that work towards helping vulnerable people attain and stay in safe, sustainable and affordable housing. The allocation of these funds comes following a two-year renewal of Abbotsford's status as a Designated Community through the Government of Canada's Reaching Home program.

Of the 19 applications received, five local capital, housing, service and shelter-diversion projects were selected to receive funding by Abbotsford's Reaching Home Community Advisory Board, which is made up of various stakeholders representing and/or serving the different population groups of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness in our community. These projects were selected for their focus on reducing the return to homelessness for at-risk individuals, providing wraparound supports and outreach services to help keep vulnerable people housed, and adding additional supportive housing spaces for those experiencing homelessness to move into.

These Reaching Home projects will take place in 2024 and 2025 with the funding spread over the same period. An additional \$212,838 of Reaching Home funding remains for future considerations, like data collection and coordination of resources, and will be allocated and disbursed by the Community Advisory Board later this year.

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing support and funding to urban, Indigenous, territorial and rural and remote communities across Canada. The City of Abbotsford became a Designated Community under the Reaching Home program in June 2020.

Developing our Reaching Home coordinated access system and implementing the City's Homelessness Action Plan supports Council's strategic goal of addressing social issues that impact our community, and strengthens responses to homelessness in Abbotsford. More information about Reaching Home and the City of Abbotsford's Homelessness Program can be viewed at www.abbotsford.ca/reachinghome.

Quotes:

The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada, on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities.

"Canadians deserve a safe and affordable place to call home. As work continues to increase affordable housing options across the country, the federal government is working directly with communities, such as Abbotsford, to invest in projects that aim to reduce chronic homelessness and help their most vulnerable people,"

Mayor Ross Siemens, City of Abbotsford

“Homelessness and the risk of homelessness is a complex issue and remains a growing concern for our City. Supporting those at risk or experiencing homelessness requires a collaborative and coordinated approach, and these projects will help provide sustainable supports and housing options for the most vulnerable members of our community. We are grateful to the Government of Canada for supporting our overall efforts to reduce homelessness in Abbotsford.”

Additional info:

- Backgrounder with funding recipient information

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Backgrounder: Funding Recipient Information

Organization	Funding
Lookout Housing and Health Society Centre Street Repairs and Renovations: This capital project will serve to renovate and complete repairs in an affordable housing duplex serving eight individuals at risk of homelessness to maintain livability and prevent returns to homelessness for eight persons.	\$54,400
Lookout Housing and Health Society Lookout Sea-Can Storage Solution: This capital project will allow the purchase, install, and equip an intermodal shipping container for storage use at Cole Starnes Supportive Residence which can be used by all lookout sites as needed. The new sea-can will create additional storage capacity for abandoned belongings/vacated rooms thereby allowing for quicker housing of incoming clients; utilization for other storage needs as space is limited in sites.	\$32,672
Raven’s Moon Resource Society Raven’s Moon Supportive Housing Program: This project will help reduce homelessness by setting up two additional houses, to serve additional at-risk individuals each month. The new houses will also provide wraparound services for existing clients.	\$600,090
Semá:th First Nation HomeSafe: Semá:th Homelessness Prevention Initiative: This project will help prevent homelessness by supporting 75 at-risk individuals and families who are members of the Sumas First Nation.	\$200,000
CEDAR Outreach Society of BC A Coordinated Response to Prevention and Diversion in Abbotsford: This project will help prevent homelessness and facilitate diversion by providing services such as financial assistance, rent supplements, and home maintenance supports.	\$900,000
To be allocated over the course of the 2024-2026 funding period to assist the community where most necessary, under the objectives of Reaching Home.	\$212,838
TOTAL	\$2,000,000