



Abbotsford Reaching Home Community Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 10, 2025, at 9:30 am

In person: Abbotsford City Hall, Room 530

32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford

MINUTES

Voting Members Present: M. Brown, C. Gauthier, L. Levy, E. Skates, J. Wegenast,

Regrets: C. Silver, E. Van Egmond, D. Halber, M. Loewen, M. Rodrigo, L. Jhaj, P. Wells

Non-voting Members Present: M. Sikora, A. Koslowsky, G. McMahon, D. Murphy, K. Munne (virtual)

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am
- b. Land acknowledgement
- c. Introductions – updates: C. Gauthier is now Chair of ADBA; Pixie is no longer with the Fraser Valley Métis Association, but is a Métis Elder, Graham to confirm acceptable designation for CAB list.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: That the Community Advisory Board adopt the July 10, 2025, meeting agenda as presented in meeting presentation.

Moved by J. Wegenast, seconded by C. Gauthier.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Abbotsford Community Advisory Board Committee February 25, 2025, meeting

MOTION: That the Community Advisory Board adopt the February 25, 2025, CAB meeting minute as presented.

Moved by M. Brown, seconded by L. Levy

CARRIED

4. Review of CAB Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference (TOR) to be reviewed annually at the first meeting of any new fiscal year of the CE or as required. Copy of TOR was included in the meeting package for review.

Discussion – none.

5. CE update

M. Sikora

- a. Under the Federal and Provincial alignment project, a provincial standard for local governance models has been developed that will launch a Homelessness Response Leadership Table (HRLT) in September. Among other things, this table will be responsible for supporting the implementation of the Coordinated Access system in Abbotsford, and be made up of decision makers from non-profits, the health authority, and provincial and federal ministries. Under this governance model, the CAB will become a sub-table, known as the Reaching Home Table and will retain its role in

deploying and monitoring Reaching Home funding and its associated programs and projects. Many of the members of the CAB will also be members of the HRLT. More information will be coming out this summer.

- b. 2024 Point in Time Homeless Count Report – took place in October 2024.
 - Posted on COA website [LINK](#)
 - Discussion
 - Acquired brain injury is much higher in homeless (30-50%) than in the general population (4%).
 - 24% of sheltered are Indigenous and 41% of unsheltered are Indigenous – Gap was noted. What can we do differently to address it?

6. 2024-25 Subprojects Summary

A. Koslowsky

- a. 16 projects contracted and funded: 5 Services projects; 7 Coordination of Resources and Data Quality Improvement (CRDQI) projects; 4 Capital projects.
- b. 15 projects completed – Lookout SeaCan Storage project was cancelled due to inability to secure a suitable installation location in Abbotsford.
- c. Summary of funds for 2024-25 Fiscal Year
 - Community Plan total amount = \$1,804,946
 - Actual amount expended = \$1,804,946 (funds were moved to accommodate community needs so didn't perfectly align with percentages set out in Community Plan)
 - Subprojects totals:
 - Services \$1,006,976
 - Capital \$206,562
 - CRDQI \$210,739
 - Total = \$1,424,277
 - \$1,534,206 Community Plan subproject total (including CA)
 - Coordinated Access total: \$223,368 - funds were shifted from subprojects (\$109,929) and admin (\$113,439) to cover this amount.

7. 2025-26 Funding Update

M. Sikora

- a. 11 subprojects: 5 Services and 6 CRDQI
- b. 2025-26 Funding available = \$1,804,946
- c. Allocated funds:
 - Services \$1,077,930
 - Capital \$0
 - CRDQI \$274,705
 - Coordinated Access \$273,317
 - Administration \$159,162
 - Total = \$1,7585,114
 - Remaining funds = \$19,832 (to cover the 2025 Point in Time Count)
- d. 2025-26 Additional Subproject for Approval
 - 2025 Homeless Count
 - MCC application received
 - Amount \$20,000

- Objective: Coordination of activities, planning and events related to the 2025 Point in Time Count (PiTC).
- J. Wegenast left the room due to conflict of interest

MOTION: That the Community Advisory Board approves the MCC 2025 Homeless Count proposed subproject for a total of \$20,000 and be presented to Abbotsford City Council for final approval.

Moved by L. Levy, seconded by E. Skates

CARRIED

K. Munne shared the following information regarding future PiTCs:

- a. There will be a change in the frequency of both the enumeration and survey of the PiTCs.
- b. The enumeration will be conducted annually and, by removing the survey from the enumeration, it may improve the accuracy of the enumeration as there will not be two aims. A single goal will allow organizers to focus on having the most complete and accurate count.
- c. The survey will be completed every three years instead of every two years. Per this timeline, 2024 will consist of both an enumeration and a survey, 2025 and 2026 will consist of an enumeration only, and 2027 will consist of both an enumeration and a survey. [Point-in-Time-Count-2024-Frequently-Asked-Questions-1.pdf](#)

8. 2026-28 Subproject funding – proposal for extension of current projects

M. Sikora

- a. 2026-27 and 2028-27 funding available: \$1,876,291 per year
- b. Extension of Current 2024-26 Subprojects: Two-Year Continuation Plan
Rationale and Key points:
 - Uninterrupted Services: By allowing the current projects to continue, stability and continuity are maintained.
 - Avoiding Unnecessary Work: Initiating a call for proposals (CFP) would result in unnecessary work and use of resources for the CE and providers.
 - Reduce Uncertainty: staff changes and disruption to the subprojects would be avoided. The extension plan mitigates these risks and supports a smoother operational transition.
- c. Proposed Subprojects to Extend for 2026-28 – 5 Services and 3 CRDQI
 - CEDAR – Coordinated response to prevention and diversion
 - Project Success Summary – served 228 individuals in 2024-25, exceeding targets. Outcomes: Eviction prevention, resource navigation, referrals.
 - \$450,000 per year
 - Raven’s Moon – Supportive Scattered-Site Housing
 - Project Success Summary – served 99 individuals and exceeded targets.
 - \$304,000 per year
 - Sumas First Nation (SFN) – Semá:th Healing Support Services
 - Project Success Summary – [Video](#) was played to share the work SFN outreach worker is doing (created by M. Brown). Served 30 individuals, exceeded targets
 - \$100,000 per year
 - MCC - Fraser Valley Rent Bank Prevention and Diversion Grants
 - Project Success Summary – served 92 individuals, exceeded targets
 - \$165,000 per year
 - Ground Zero Ministries – Project Off the Streets

- Project Success Summary – placed 9 individuals in transitional housing, exceeded targets; Facilitated distribution of food to multiple organizations and families in Abbotsford, preventing homelessness.
- \$61,000 per year
- MCC – Extreme Weather Coordination
 - Project Success Summary – Provided crucial services and resources in our community, as other funding resources are unavailable. Most of the funding was used to purchase supplies for distribution through a central hub, making them accessible to local organizations.
 - \$128,000 per year
- PCRS – Indigenous Outreach Access Point
 - Project Success Summary – is the only Indigenous outreach service in Abbotsford not tied to a specific program, actively participating in key local coordination meetings. It is crucial for providing culturally appropriate services to the Indigenous community, meeting HICC requirements, and addressing the needs of 34% of the homeless population.
 - \$60,000 per year
- MCC – Point in Time Count Coordination
 - Project Success Summary - Count coordination has been well done in past years, and the organization has proven experience with this work.
 - \$30,000 in 2026-27 & \$40,000 in 2027-28
- 2026-28 Estimated annual funding
 - 2026-27
 - a. Subprojects \$1,298,000
 - b. CA \$289,000
 - c. Administration \$168,000
 - d. Total \$1,755,000
 - e. Remaining = \$121,291
 - 2027-28
 - a. Subprojects \$1,308,000
 - b. CA \$306,000
 - c. Administration \$175,000
 - d. Total \$1,789,000
 - e. Remaining = \$87,291
- Discussion:
 - Request presented on behalf of MCC Rent Bank subproject that some of the remaining funds go towards more funding for grants as there is a larger need for this in the community. MCC runs an effective program - Thursday BBQs, mobile showers, clothing handout, including Rent Bank.
 - Suggestion to not decide how to allocate remaining funds at this time as things/requirements may come up over the next year that are unknown at the moment.
 - Integrated outreach program – shelter referrals not available for walk-ups after 3 pm. Suggestion to use funding for a project to set up an after-hours on-call number and have an access point.
 - Suggestion to use some funding for capital projects.
 - Move approval to allocate remaining funds to the September CAB meeting.

- M. Sikora and J. Wegenast left the room due to conflicts of interest

MOTION: That the Community Advisory Board approve the following subprojects receive continued funding for an additional 2 years, through to March 31, 2028, for a total of \$1,298,000 (2026-27) and \$1,308,000 (2027-28), and that they be presented to Abbotsford City Council for final approval for the amounts requested.

Moved by C. Gauthier, seconded by E. Skates

CARRIED

9. Coordinated Access Update

G. McMahon

- CAS staff collaboration - Working with BC Housing, Ministry of Housing, HICC, and CEs/CA Leads on the Alignment Project and Trilateral Partnership.
- Trilateral meetings concluded and now engaging in provincial working groups.
- Abbotsford was part of pilot work that completed in March. This work helped to inform Alignment project documentation.
- Local CAS and HIFIS groups – will form new tables that will start to meet in the fall.
- CHIA update – has a new dashboard, GIS team at COA provides great support. IHEART has access to it and uses it. Other municipalities are starting to use and implement their own versions of the platform.
- Coordinated Access Specialist Data Coordinator will be on maternity leave starting Aug, interviewing is in process for a replacement.

10. Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC)

K. Munne – the focus for this fiscal year is the BC alignment project.

- Launched in June 2024
- Goal: to meet the Coordinated Access local requirements by March 31, 2026.
- Partners: HICC, BC Housing, BC Ministry of Housing, CAEH (Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness), and broader community members. Working to align in a coordinated and data driven way.
- Phases: 5 total, 1-4 are complete and are now in the final phase, Implementation.
- Abbotsford (CAS team) has been a leader throughout the process and their good has been acknowledged.

11. Member Round Table

- none

12. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn meeting.

The motion was made

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 am