



NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford Stories Project Launched to Highlight Abbotsford's Homelessness Prevention and Response System

ABBOTSFORD – November 30, 2018 – The City of Abbotsford has released a series of videos that highlight the City's Coordinated Intake and Referral (CIR) Program as part of the ongoing work of the Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention and Response System, announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

The video launch took place at the University of the Fraser Valley with partner organizations and members of the public in attendance.

Background

In May 2015, the City of Abbotsford received \$400,989 in funding from Service Canada towards the development of a Coordinated Intake and Referral (CIR) model to provide individuals who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness to access housing and health supports. The CIR was developed by a research and design team comprised of local housing and service providers, Fraser Health Authority, BC Housing, Ministry of Social Development-Poverty Reduction, and the City of Abbotsford.

The purpose of the Abbotsford Stories project is to provide the following:

1. Document the collaborative planning process and stakeholder perspectives related to the research, design and implementation process;
2. Provide information regarding the Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention and Response System and Coordinated Intake and Referral Model from the perspectives of stakeholders and participants; and
3. Increase awareness about the complexity and diversity of vulnerability in our community.

In addition to the videos, the City has partnered with the University of the Fraser Valley to develop an online curriculum as part of the Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention and Response System's Community of Integrated Practice. The curriculum can be accessed free of charge and will provide multi-sectoral professionals, community members and students an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding about issues related to homelessness, the Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention and Response System, and merging practices related to respectful service delivery for vulnerable populations. The curriculum will be fully launched as a pilot in early 2019.

Together, the Abbotsford Stories Project and the online curriculum respond to the *Homelessness in Abbotsford Action Plan's* strategic direction to create a culture of inclusion and respect.

Quote:

“While municipalities do not have a mandate for housing or health, addressing the needs of our community’s most vulnerable is a key priority for the City of Abbotsford. We greatly appreciate the wide range of partners we’ve been able to engage in developing long-term and effective solutions for those currently experiencing or at-risk for homelessness.”

*Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford*

Associated Links:

Abbotsford Stories Projects Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNQJq7z5TUDk_IY8Rh0YehA/videos?disable_polymer=1

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