

May 19, 2015

Campbell River's homelessness coalition to become community committee

Members of the Campbell River Homelessness Coalition have decided to establish a new community-based organization to continue to address homelessness, housing and poverty.

"Through a strengthened commitment in our efforts to eradicate homelessness and poverty in Campbell River, members have chosen to move forward by created a community committee," the coalition members wrote to Council in a letter that was included on the May 11 Council agenda.

"This is a community-minded solution, organized by the groups best equipped to address these issues. We are pleased these dedicated people who have devoted many, many hours to helping others will continue to pursue solutions, including supported housing, to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our community," says Mayor Andy Adams. *"Coalition members have chosen to join the community committee being formed and continue to work toward the establishment of a Community Health Network that includes all stakeholders. With the development of the community committee and the Community Health Network, the City-sponsored coalition will no longer be required, and we're all looking forward to continuing to work together collaboratively to help the community committee accomplish their goals."*

The Campbell River Homelessness Coalition grew out of a task force launched by Council in 2010. The community committee will continue to deal with the recommendations of the Homelessness Task Force Report, take a close look at the gaps identified in the report, and work on the identified priorities listed in the Campbell River Community Homelessness Strategy.

Between 2012 and 2014, the coalition:

- Provided funding support to the Campbell River North Island Transition Society for a temporary support worker for Palmer Place supported housing
- Funded an independent Homelessness Study to explore partnership opportunities and options in Campbell River for the development and operation of 30-plus units of supported housing for people who would otherwise be homeless
- Conducted educational regional tours to look at various services, systems and properties to help identify service levels and gaps
- Volunteered more than 900 volunteer hours
- In 2013, a successful proposal by Campbell River Family Services created the Campbell River Housing Resource Centre
- In 2014, Partners International developed the Campbell River Community Homelessness Strategy, which identified the need for a low barrier shelter, additional extreme weather shelter and a homeless hub for services.

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