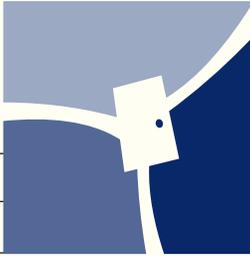


- Adequate income ■
- Support services ■
- Housing ■



3 WAYS TO HOME

RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS IN GREATER VANCOUVER

inside

JANUARY 2003
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Building a solution

SCPI funding in Greater Vancouver has supported 57 projects to alleviate and prevent homelessness

In January 2000, \$25.1 million in funding was allocated to Greater Vancouver for projects addressing homelessness under the federal government's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).¹ In Greater Vancouver (and across BC) federal allocations were matched by funding from the Province of British Columbia through its housing and social programs.

During the fiscal years 2000-2002, this money has been allocated to 57 individual projects across the region which have established and maintained a variety of housing and support services to homeless persons and people at-risk of homelessness. These projects were recommended by the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) following its review of over 180 proposals submitted by community groups across Greater Vancouver.

The Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver (March 2001) adopted the approach that building a solution to homelessness requires taking action around enabling people to have an adequate income, providing a range of support services, and creating a continuum of housing. Within these three directions, the plan identified priorities which formed the screening criteria for assessment of project proposals. Securing adequate income through employment programs and government assistance, and the development of a sufficient supply of permanent, affordable, independent housing, are priority areas that fall outside the

mandate of SCPI. However, through nine separate priority areas, the SCPI program has contributed to the expansion of available housing and support services for homeless and at-risk individuals and families, including some projects specifically for youth and Aboriginal persons.

Emergency and Supportive Housing

While there is blurring of the line between projects focused on housing and those providing support services, a significant amount of the SCPI funding over the last three years has gone towards the creation or improvement of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing. As the accompanying chart illustrates, a total of 83 percent (or \$21 million) of Greater Vancouver's \$25.1 million allotment of SCPI funding was directed to shelter and housing projects. This funding secured a significant expansion in the number of beds available to homeless persons.

The largest portion of SCPI funding was directed to the creation or renovation of eleven emergency shelters which expand both the location and the range of flexible and inclusive shelter services available, including minimal barrier shelter. Fifty two percent (\$13.2 million) of SCPI funds were distributed under 19

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¹ While not included in this analysis, the SCPI program additionally allocated \$5.5 million specifically for Aboriginal programs and approximately \$2.4 million specifically for youth programs in Greater Vancouver. Also federal funding was made available for the development of the Regional Plan and for regional and sectoral research. This article is the first summary analysis of the use of SCPI funds. Further analysis is underway and will be reported in future newsletters.

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allocations to shelter projects, some of which include transitional housing, in Vancouver, the City and District of North Vancouver, Maple Ridge, and Surrey. One of these projects in Vancouver’s downtown eastside targets shelter beds specifically to women, while two other Vancouver shelters address the needs of homeless youth. The remaining projects across the region provide services targeted to men and women, with several specifically addressing additional shelter needs during cold, wet weather.

Projects addressing the need for supportive housing received 20 percent (\$5 million) of SCPI funding for the Greater Vancouver region. Supportive housing is self-contained accommodation for independent living, with added supports like meal preparation, housekeeping, and personal banking provided, often on-site. Supportive housing projects funded by SCPI are located in New Westminister and Vancouver’s downtown eastside, with one initiative providing housing specifically for sex trade workers.

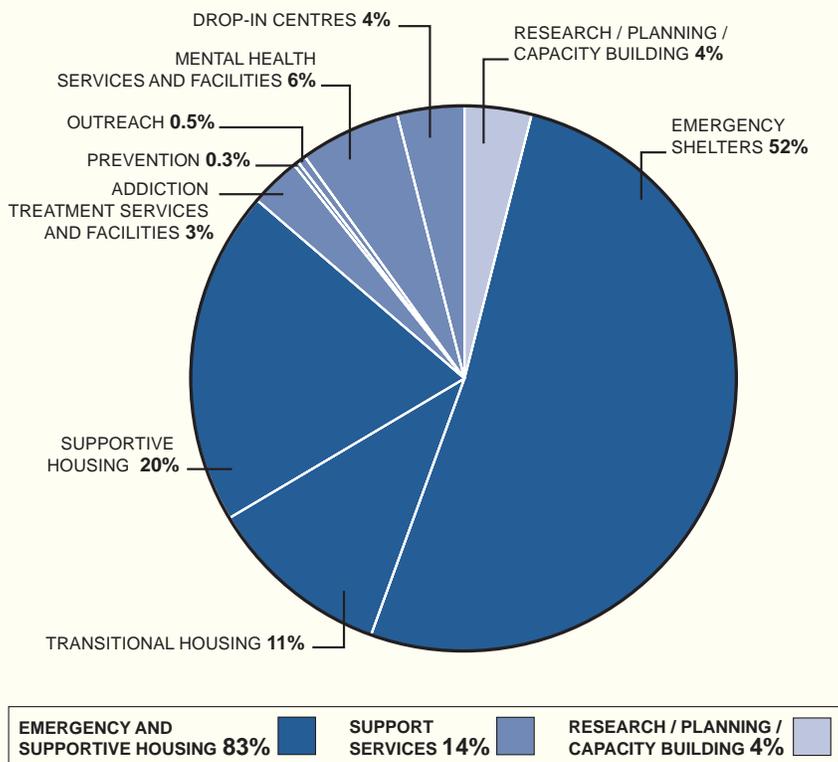
Eleven percent (\$2.8 million) of SCPI funding went towards creating or enhancing transitional housing, time-limited accommodation for those fleeing abuse or leaving addiction treatment or incarceration. This type of housing tends to include counseling and other supports. Three SCPI funded transitional housing projects direct services to women, while one facility targets homeless or at-risk youth. Transitional housing projects are located across the Greater Vancouver region, in Vancouver, and the municipalities of the North Shore, Richmond, and New Westminister.

SCPI Funding for Support Services

SCPI funding for support service projects reflects the importance of extending a range of programs to homeless persons, including mental health, drop-in centres, addiction treatment, outreach, and prevention. As the chart illustrates, 14 percent (\$3.6 million) of SCPI funding was directed to projects creating new services or enhancing existing supports.

Mental health received the largest proportion of SCPI funding for support services, at 6 percent (\$1.4 million). Mental health services include a wide variety of programs and facilities: short and long term supported or independent accommodation, counseling, crisis intervention, and rehabilitation. The majority of SCPI funding for mental health targeted the creation of transitional and supportive housing for persons with mental illnesses. Projects were undertaken in Vancouver, Burnaby, Port Coquitlam, and New Westminister.

The establishment or upgrading of drop-in centres received 4 percent (\$1.1 million) of SCPI funding. Drop-in centres are “street front” facilities that offer homeless persons a chance to have a meal, use a telephone, shower and wash clothes, or receive counseling or referrals. Two groups received SCPI sup-



■ Allocation of SCPI Projects by Greater Vancouver Regional Homelessness Plan Priorities (fiscal years 2000 – 2002)

port for creating or renovating drop-in facilities, one of which targeted homeless youth.

Addiction treatment projects received 3 percent (\$844,000) of SCPI funding. Initiatives in this area include managed withdrawal, services to prevent the spread of disease, pharmacological treatment, and counseling. The two addiction treatment projects that received SCPI funding address the needs of women with substance abuse problems by providing recovery beds or supportive housing.

Through the SCPI program, 0.8 percent (\$212,000) of funding was directed to outreach and prevention services. Outreach services focus on finding homeless persons and creating connections between these individuals and appropriate service providers or resources. Prevention services keep people from becoming homeless through counseling, mediation, and advocacy. The prevention services funded through SCPI have targeted seniors through the creation of support/outreach worker positions.

Research / Planning / Capacity Building

In addition to funding projects in the housing and support service areas, 4% (\$895,100) of SCPI funds have been allocated to projects that respond to the need for local research and planning and capacity building around homelessness. Some of the activities undertaken by projects in this area include data collection and analysis, public and community education, and the creation of local plans to address homelessness. See page 5 for more information on the development of local plans to address homelessness.

Information about progress on homelessness across Greater Vancouver

SCPI

SCPI renewal update

THE SEPTEMBER, 2002 throne speech promised that the federal government “will extend the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative to provide communities with strategies to help reduce homelessness.”

The National Homelessness Initiative was originally scheduled to end as of September 2003. However this announcement signals the federal government’s policy direction to extend the SCPI program, which is a critical element of the National Homelessness Initiative.

At this time, details concerning the extension are under development. In the meantime the current SCPI continues using the processes and procedures already in place. It is expected that further information will be communicated through the upcoming federal budget.

REGIONAL PLAN

Endorsement process continues

A RANGE of community development activities aimed at promoting awareness and endorsement of the Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver are currently being planned for spring, 2003. These include raising awareness about the plan among diverse stakeholders, and seeking endorsements of the plan by municipalities and community groups.

These groups are being asked to approve the six guiding principles of the regional plan and to endorse the plan as a working document by using it as a reference and guide when making decisions on issues connected with housing and homelessness.

The six guiding principles include recognition of the “3 Ways to Home” (adequate income, supports services, and housing), that homelessness services are

accessible throughout the Greater Vancouver region, that services are inclusive, and that solutions recognize both absolute homelessness and those at risk. Other principles are that solutions are to be developed with cooperation and coordination among stakeholders in the region, and that solutions have a long term focus.

An information package is being prepared and presentations are being scheduled throughout the Greater Vancouver region. If your organization is interested in learning more about how it can support the Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver, please contact Gillian Tong at the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (604-718-7751 / homelessness@sparc.bc.ca).

RSCH

Comings and goings

DURING THE FALL OF 2002 some members joined while others said goodbye to the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH).

New members, who also represent new organizations or constituencies on the RSCH, include Charon Gill (Progressive Intercultural Services Society), Cory Wint (Inner Visions Recovery Society), Sandy Cooke (Covenant House) and Terry Ostholm (Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society).

Thor Kuhlmann, (City of New Westminster) has been replaced by Lee-Anne Garnett. Thor was chair of the RSCH Governance Working Group and was an active member with the Finance Working Group.

Other membership changes include George HoLem (United Native Nations) replacing Scott Clark, Suzanne Noel (Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society) replacing Donna Roach, Louise Elmes (Co-operative Housing Federation of BC) replacing Diane Winkler, and Bill Engleson (Lower Mainland Purpose Society) replacing Lynda Fletcher-Gordon.

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3 WAYS TO HOME

New logo to help identify homelessness efforts



An important first step in building support for the Regional Homelessness Plan has been the creation of a distinct visual identity for the Plan that would be displayed on all its communication materials.

The design is based on the emphasis placed in the Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver that the solution to homelessness consists of three elements: adequate income, support services, and a continuum of housing.

The wordmark, “3 Ways to Home” has been chosen to accompany the logo. The logo and wordmark are meant to represent that the solution to homelessness requires approaches from each of three directions. It also portrays that these three elements reflect the different ways in which stakeholders can be part of the solution.

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RSCH

Regional Steering Committee looks at governance

ABOUT 30 PARTICIPANTS gathered at a half day session on December 12, 2002 to work on the design of a long term sustainable form of governance for the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH).

The RSCH is a community advisory committee with over 30 members which was formed in early 2000. The RSCH works to implement the Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver and reviews and makes recommendations on proposals submitted for funding under the SCPI program.

One important governance question is to determine the funding delivery model that will be used in light of the throne speech announcement that the SCPI program will be extended. Some centres have operated under a Community Entity model in which a municipality, a community housing foundation, or other not for profit organization, is the decision making body. The community entity undertakes contracting and managing of funding agreements, including monitoring,

audits and evaluation. In the first three years of the SCPI program the Greater Vancouver community operated under a Shared Delivery model. Under this model, the community's recommendations on projects to be funded were made by the RSCH to HRDC which then reviewed the proposed projects and made the final decisions on funding.

A further related question, and connected to the choice of funding delivery model, is the issue of how the RSCH receives administrative support. In the first three years of SCPI this was provided by the GVRD and more recently by SPARC BC.

At the December session participants initiated discussion on what funding and support delivery model would best serve the needs of the Greater Vancouver area. A meeting report and proposals for further discussion will be developed and distributed as a follow up to the meeting.

LOCAL NEWS

Toque Tuesday supports outreach

FRASERSIDE COMMUNITY Services will be this year's recipient of funds raised during the Toque Tuesday Campaign, February 4th, 2003. Money raised will be used to hire an Outreach

Worker to provide housing support to New Westminster residents.

Toque Tuesday is a national event held the first Tuesday of February in which volunteers raise funds by selling toques for a minimum \$7.00 donation. The 2003 goal is to sell over 100,000 toques across Canada.

The New Westminster Outreach Worker will work on outreach, advocacy with landlords, support at arbitration hearings, case management strategies, referral and support. The position has been identified as a major service need in the New Westminster area.

Toque Tuesday is a yearly event sponsored by Raising the Roof, a national charity organization that works to raise awareness about homelessness and affordable housing issues and to raise funds for community groups working to alleviate homelessness. The money raised from the Toque Tuesday Campaign goes to local charities across Canada working to reduce homelessness in our communities, as well as to Raising the Roof's public education initiatives.

For more information on Toque Tuesday contact Ronnie Bouvier, Campaign Manager, at 604-626-5686 (ronniebouvier@aol.com) or visit the Raising the Roof website at www.raisingtheroof.org.

HOME THOUGHTS

Reflections on home and homelessness

"A home is more than just a building one lives in. A home is a person's identity, belief system. To be homeless would mean to be disconnected from where or from whatever it is someone may have come from.

"Homeless to me is any person without an address, any person living on the street wrapped in a blanket on a sidewalk or in an alley. Homeless is anyone without a place they could call home. Homeless is anyone that cannot find a permanent place to live. Homeless means lost and forgotten and nobody cares what's happening to you or if you need help.



" Homeless is someone who lost their family, their home, and their children and gave up on all their responsibilities. Homeless is losing all financial security. Homeless is not having a secure atmosphere; always looking over your shoulder when you try to sleep on a park bench with one eye open. Homeless is being alone outside, cold and hungry and praying to God that he will look out for you. Homeless is wandering the streets day and night in search of food and shelter. Dirty and in need of a hot bath or shower that never seems to happen. Homeless is a person who becomes sick mentally and family and friends who abandoned them not understanding the state of their mind..."

Quoted in *The View from the Sidewalk: Towards a New Definition of People who are Homeless* (Organic Intellectuals, 2001. Full report available at <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/%7Evoice/>)

Realizing a community vision

Partnership is essential in the development of the Surrey Homelessness Plan

Community partners in Surrey are moving forward to address homelessness in their city. A process for creating a Surrey Homelessness Plan is currently underway, with the first of two phases recently being completed. Phase One involved a needs assessment of the absolutely homeless and those at-risk of homelessness. Phase Two will comprise the development, implementation, monitoring and, evaluation of the Plan, key to which is the establishment of a representative homelessness steering committee.

The development of the Surrey Homelessness Plan proceeded under Human Resources Development Canada's Supporting Community Partnership Initiatives (SCPI). It is one of five sub-regional homelessness plans funded under the SCPI program that have been developed within Greater Vancouver (see sidebar to this article for a synopsis of the other plans). Each of these plans was developed under the guidance of a local community steering committee and with input from a broad range of stakeholders, so they are all compatible with the Regional Homelessness Plan of Greater Vancouver.

Phase One: The Needs Assessment

The Surrey Homelessness Plan has its origins in a Community Impact Profile completed in May 2000 by Surrey Social Futures, with key funding support from the United Way of the Lower Mainland. This profile collected information on economic, education, health, housing, and other conditions within Surrey and White Rock, forming the basis for a set of 34 social indicators. With respect to housing, key findings included that Surrey had a higher percentage of renter households with affordability problems than any other municipality in Greater Vancouver, and that existing emergency shelter facilities regularly turned away people due to lack of space. In response to the Community Impact Profile, an Interim Homelessness Task Force was formed. The development of a Homelessness Plan was one of two key recommendations advanced by this Task Force. Surrey Social Futures requested and ultimately received funding through the SCPI program to develop the Plan.

John Talbot and Associates Inc. was retained to complete the needs assessment portion of the Surrey Homelessness Plan. The methodology used was as inclusive as possible, involving absolutely homeless persons, persons at-risk of homelessness, and agencies that directly serve these populations. Absolute homeless refers to people with no physical shelter or those currently in emergency or temporary accommodation. At-risk of

homelessness includes persons living in situations that do not meet basic health and safety standards, that lack security of tenure, or that are unaffordable. This category also includes the 'invisible' homeless – persons 'couch-surfing' or staying temporarily with family and friends.

In January 2002, a 24 hour survey of the homeless population in Greater Vancouver was conducted by the GVRD as part of a region-wide research project on homelessness. As part of the day time portion of this count, 47 absolutely homeless people were identified in Surrey. During the night time count, the vast majority of the 66 emergency shelter beds and 52 transition beds located in Surrey were occupied, and a number of people were turned away. Accordingly, it is estimated that the number of absolutely homeless people in Surrey is between 150 and 200.

Also as part of the needs assessment, direct service providers were asked to complete questionnaires and to participate in interviews. Interviews were also conducted with current or formerly homeless people. Finally, the consultants and the Homelessness Task Force organized a Community Forum in April 2002 to collect feedback on proposed actions. Participants in the Forum included residents, elected officials, and representatives of community service and government agencies.

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Other homelessness studies and plans in Greater Vancouver

Richmond Homelessness Needs Assessment and Strategy, May 2002

The study found that the majority of people who become, or are at risk of becoming, homeless must leave Richmond to find necessary housing, income and support services. The Richmond Strategy developed a vision and guiding principles for addressing homelessness, identified five key action areas, and recommended 12 projects to be implemented at a cost of approximately \$6.2 million over the next five years. Current activity includes work on Richmond House Emergency Shelter and Nova House Transition Shelter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION including a copy of the report, visit www.city.richmond.bc.ca/planning/homeless/homeless_index.htm or contact Rob Innes, Social Planner, City of Richmond
Tel: 604-276-4193, Email: rinnes@city.richmond.bc.ca

Langley Study on Homelessness and Action Plan, May 2002

The study confirmed that homelessness is an issue in the City and District of Langley and recommended immediate action in the form of 4-5 cold/wet weather barrier-free beds. It also recommended preparation of proposals as appropriate for seniors and mental health housing in response to recent provincial programs and reports. Other recommendations concerned

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Results of Phase One included collecting information on the composition of the homeless population, risk factors associated with homelessness, and the range of available support services and facilities. Phase One also generated an inventory of challenges to be addressed in the second phase of the Surrey Homelessness Plan project. Challenges which were identified include jurisdiction over responsibility for homelessness, the lack of a coordinating body for homelessness services and programs, and the absence of a history of collaboration among service providers. Additional factors that create obstacles to action are increasing competition among service providers for scarce funding dollars, Surrey's large size, and a lack of public awareness. Key gaps within the housing, income, and support continuum more generally inhibit many people from escaping homelessness.

In addition to these challenges, the needs assessment identified opportunities available to be capitalized on as part of Phase Two. These include: federal government funds for homelessness research/services, provincial government support for supportive/assisted living units for the frail elderly, the City of Surrey's home ownership assistance program, new shelter and transitional housing, and Surrey's participation in Vibrant Communities, a national initiative to reduce poverty and promote inclusion.

Phase Two: Turning Plans into Reality

Now that the background work for the development of the Surrey Homelessness plan is complete, the process is underway for the

affordable rental housing, secondary suites, retaining rental stock, integrated youth services, addiction services, and public transportation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Maureen Joyce, Langley Stepping Stone Rehabilitative Society, Tel: 604-530-5033, Email: mjoyce@langleystepingstone.com

Tri-Cities Homelessness Study, May 2001

The study found that there are homeless people living in the Tri-Cities area, as well as a significant number of families that are at risk of homelessness. The study recommended short term actions such as the opening of a Drop In Centre and review of food bank services and, subject to further justification, longer term actions revolving around the creation of an effective continuum of housing and services eg. emergency shelter and transition beds, bridge or supportive housing, permanent affordable housing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Roxann MacDonald, SHARE Family and Community Services, Tel: 604-540-9161, Email: sharesoc@direct.ca

Organizing to End Homelessness in Burnaby, March 2001

The report identified homelessness as an issue within the City of Burnaby and recommended research on addiction treatment services and associated youth supported housing, and develop-

ment of purpose built supported housing for mental health consumers and supported housing for multi-diagnosed individuals.

- The development of a plan that fits within the context of the continuum of housing, income, and support, as identified in the Greater Vancouver Regional Homelessness Plan
- The establishment of a homelessness and housing steering committee
- The staging of a homelessness and housing symposium in the spring of 2003
- The development and implementation of a communications and public awareness strategy
- The development and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation strategy

At a December 10th 2002 meeting, participants from the City of Surrey, the Chamber of Commerce, the Fraser Health authority, Kwantlen University-College, and many community organizations affirmed these primary components of Phase Two, and agreed that the most critical priority for action is residential detox services. Other identified short term priorities include the formation of an advisory group to the steering committee comprised of the absolutely homeless, a contact centre for all homelessness resources in Surrey (and possibly the South Fraser Region), and a mobile primary health care unit to provide homeless people with health assessments and services.

For more information contact Annie McKittrick, Surrey Social Futures, Tel 604-585-7666, ssf@paralynx.com. For a copy of the report visit www.vcn.bc.ca/ssf/Pdf_Files/Surrey_Final_Report.pdf

ment of purpose built supported housing for mental health consumers and supported housing for multi-diagnosed individuals. This report has provided support to a number of recent initiatives including the recently opened short stay shelter for the mentally ill in Burnaby.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Beverly Grieve, City of Burnaby, Tel: 604-294-7430, Email: Beverly.grieve@city.burnaby.bc.ca

Homelessness on the North Shore, September 2000

The North Shore Homelessness Task Force initiated a study and established that homelessness was an important community issue and that an effective response required greater awareness among the general public and decision makers and both short term and long term initiatives in terms of housing and supports. Collaboration among a number of agencies and organizations has resulted in several initiatives including a cold/wet weather emergency shelter for the past three years, approval of a permanent minimal barrier adult shelter with potential for expansion to include transition housing, and the opening of a small youth safe house.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Dr. Brian O'Connor, Medical Health Officer, North Shore/Coast Garibaldi Health Services, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Tel: 604-983-6701, Email: brian.o'connor@nshr.hnet.bc.ca

Learnings from Aboriginal forum

On November 20, the Regional Homelessness Research Committee hosted the Aboriginal Homelessness Research Forum, the third in a series of research forums on issues pertaining to housing in BC. Held at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, the Forum brought together over 70 activists, community workers, academics, and others from communities across the province to discuss the many faces of homelessness, and community responses to it.

The BC Situation

The first of two panel sessions presented some highlights of recent research on homelessness and related issues. Nancy Laliberte and Patricia Spittal discussed the Vancouver Injection Drug User Survey, a project in which community partners in Prince George and Vancouver are exploring the impact of aboriginal identity and gender on the risk of HIV/AIDS infection.

Greg Brass from Human Resources Development Canada spoke on behalf of the Prince Rupert Homelessness Steering Committee, highlighting the research completed in Prince Rupert and Port Edward to date. Alfred Linklater and John Makson provided an update on the First Nations Statistics (FNS)¹, a nascent group whose mandate is to “provide statistical information and analysis of the commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic and general activities and conditions of First Nations Peoples.”

Bernie Whiteford from the Helping Spirit Lodge Society and the Vancouver Aboriginal Council discussed the importance of needs assessments in informing program development. Successful approaches to research/initiatives for urban Aboriginal peoples were then discussed by Karin Hunt of Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association.

The panel concluded with Cameron McBeth speaking about research sponsored by the National Homelessness Secretariat, focusing in particular on a best practices profile of the Circle of Eagles halfway house in BC.

Linking Research to Action

The remainder of the day was devoted to discussion of what makes research useful and future actions that should be undertaken to enhance our collective capacity to undertake research. Some key themes identified by participants are listed below.

What we need in terms of research design:

- Longitudinal research

- Qualitative and quantitative research
- Participatory research that engages those directly affected as ‘subjects’ rather than ‘objects,’ and that draws from and builds on their experiential knowledge and expertise
- Research that links with other initiatives underway in the region, province, or country
- Research that evaluates the value of innovative models or responses
- Research that addresses the underlying causes of homelessness

What we want to see with respect to the outcomes of research:

- Research should inform policy decisions – there is a need to forge linkages between researchers and decision makers, and to include concrete recommendations
- Research should help to create community cohesion and action
- Research should lead to immediate and direct benefits to those most affected by the issue(s) under consideration (e.g. employment, training, increased resources)
- Results of research should be incorporated in community planning

The top three actions that should be taken:

- Establish a network of grassroots aboriginal researchers, academics, graduate students, community activists, and so on to create bridges between the knowledge of different groups, and to develop a collective voice for Aboriginal homelessness research.
- Come up with strategies to facilitate the sharing of data to avoid duplication and forge linkages. This should include a review of what data already exists.
- Develop a strategic work plan around the realization of these goals.

The Forum was funded by Human Resources Development Canada, Status of Women Canada, and the BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women’s Services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

- Lu’ma Native Housing Society www.lnhs.ca
- United Native Nations Homelessness report
www.lnhs.ca/unn_homelessness_report.html
- Aboriginal Homelessness Planning in the GVRD
2001/2002 www.lnhs.ca/ahsc.html

¹ First Nations Statistics (FNS) is an independent initiative developed by First Nations peoples out of research from the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People, and the AFN Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations and National Table on Fiscal Relations. The act to establish FNS – the First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act – was introduced in the House of Commons for first reading on December 2, 2002. For more information on FNS, visit their website at www.firststats.ca

resources

next issue

Where to go next

Update on next round of SCPI funding

Time to evaluate

Three years of SCPI: What has been accomplished?

Youth homelessness

How one community is addressing it

Greater Vancouver Plan

Update on endorsements and support by municipalities and community groups



3 Ways to Home: Responding to Homelessness in Greater Vancouver

is published by SPARC BC on behalf of the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness. The committee includes representatives from emergency shelters, advocacy groups, service providers, housing providers, health authorities, health service providers, labour, urban Aboriginal organizations, immigrant and refugee service groups, municipal, provincial and federal governments, and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

If you have comments or suggestions regarding the content of this publication contact SPARC BC (homelessness@sparc.bc.ca or phone 604-718-7751). Additional information (including reports and previous updates) is available at: www.gvrd.bc.ca/homelessness.

■ HOMELESSNESS – RESEARCH

Homelessness Research in the Greater Vancouver Regional District: An Agenda for Moving Forward

Provides a summary of existing literature and research on homelessness in the GVRD, and proposes a conceptual framework and recommendations for developing a homelessness research agenda.

www.ihpr.ubc.ca/pdfs/HomelessnessResearchSynth.pdf

The View from the Sidewalk: Towards a New Definition of People Who Are Homeless: A Study by Organic Intellectuals

A unique piece of community based research that seeks to accurately define issues related to homelessness from the perspective of those who have experienced homelessness.

www.vcn.bc.ca/~voice

■ HOMELESSNESS – RESEARCH – YOUTH

McCreary Centre Society

Between the Cracks: Homeless Youth in Vancouver (2002)

No Place to Call Home: A Profile of Street Youth in British Columbia (2001)

Two publications from the McCreary Centre Society are a must read for anyone who wants to understand youth issues related to homelessness.

www.mcs.bc.ca/sp-gr-order.pdf (not available on line, but can be ordered for a fee)

No Place Like Home: an awareness and action resource for youth

Contact Raising the Roof at info@raisingtheroof.org (put “educationpkg” in subject line) to get a copy of booklet which provides background information, interactive awareness raising activities, and ideas for taking action on homelessness.

www.raisingtheroof.org/index.cfm

■ HOMELESSNESS – RESEARCH – ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal Homelessness: Planning in the GVRD 2001/2002, February 2002

Provides a summary of a community planning process conducted from November 2001 to January 2002 concerning homelessness of urban Aboriginal people in the GVRD.

Published by the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee and Luma Native Housing

<http://www.lnhs.ca/ahsc.html>

■ HOMELESSNESS – RESEARCH – IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

A Survey on the Extent of Substandard Housing Problems Faced by Immigrants and Refugees in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia

Findings of a community-based project that focused on determining the extent of substandard housing problems faced by immigrants and refugees in the Lower Mainland. Published by Multicultural Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities (MOSAIC)

<http://www.mosaicbc.com/SCPI%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

■ HOMELESSNESS – RESEARCH – INCOME AND HEALTH

The Centre for Social Justice

www.socialjustice.org

An excellent site for information about the health and income aspects of homelessness. Two items are of particular interest and can be accessed through prominent links on the homepage.

- Poverty, Income Inequality, and Health in Canada by Dr. Dennis Raphael.
- Conference 2002 on Social Determinants of Health Across the Life-Span.