



Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness

Comox Valley Regional District

February 9, 2021

Andrea Cupelli – Coordinator





The Coalition

31 member agencies, who together, plan, coordinate, recommend, advocate for, and implement community responses to homelessness.

We work along the wheelhouse
of housing options

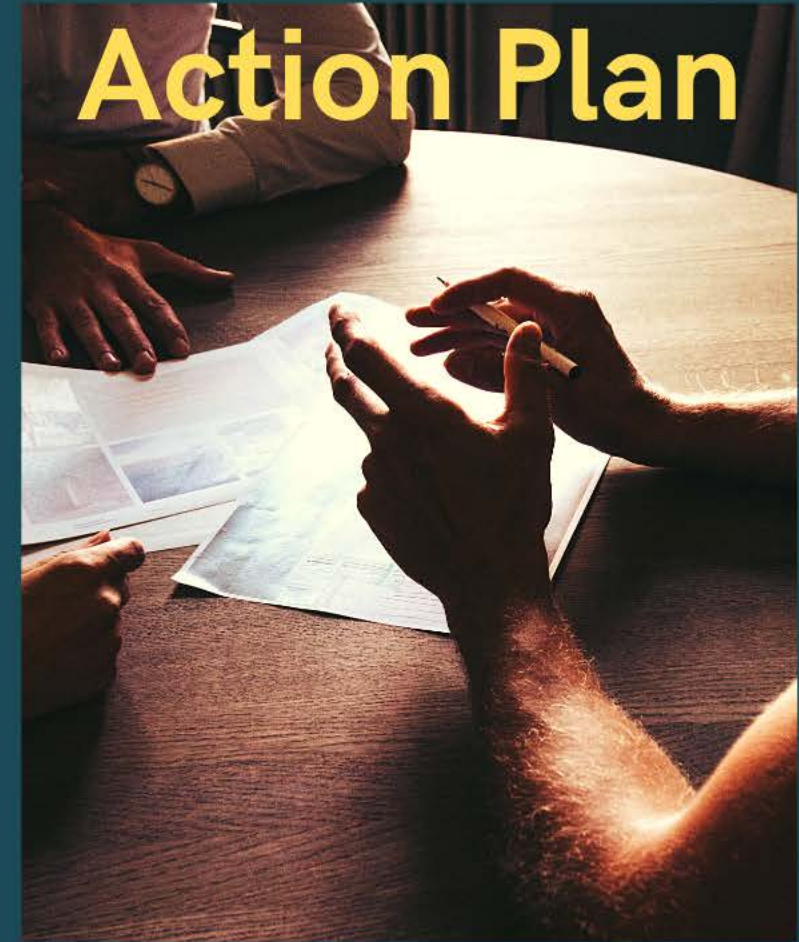
We strongly believe in the power of
collaboration and partnership

We use a preventative,
client-centred approach

We use our platform to educate, increase
public awareness, and build community

We make funding recommendations for the Comox Valley Regional District
Homelessness Supports Service Fund

A New Way of Reporting



CVRD 2020 Housing Needs Assessment

PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING

- Seniors, young families, people living alone, and equity-seeking groups experience major challenges in finding and keeping appropriate, affordable housing
- Equity-seeking groups are more often in Core Housing Need (spending more than 30% of their income on housing)
- There is a lack of accessible housing options
- New housing must be connected to public transportation options

THERE IS A SEVERE LACK OF STUDIO UNITS AVAILABLE

- Studio units can often provide affordable housing options for vulnerable individuals.

THERE IS DISPARITY BETWEEN HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS

- 29.9% of renters in the Comox Valley fall into Core Housing Need (spending more than 30% of their income on housing)
- 14% of renters in the Comox Valley fall into Extreme Housing Need (spending more than 50% of their income on housing)
- Renters are 6 times more likely than homeowners to experience Extreme Core Housing Need

THE PRIVATE HOUSING MARKET ALONE CANNOT MEET HOUSING NEEDS. NON-MARKET HOUSING AND SUPPORTS ARE NEEDED

- Rent subsidies are not keeping up with rising housing costs
- The BC Housing waitlist for subsidized units in the Comox Valley had 270 applications as of January 2020



The Comox Valley Housing Wheelhouse



Adapted from The Housing Wheelhouse, City of Kelowna (2017)

78

units of housing built since 2015
through the HSS Fund

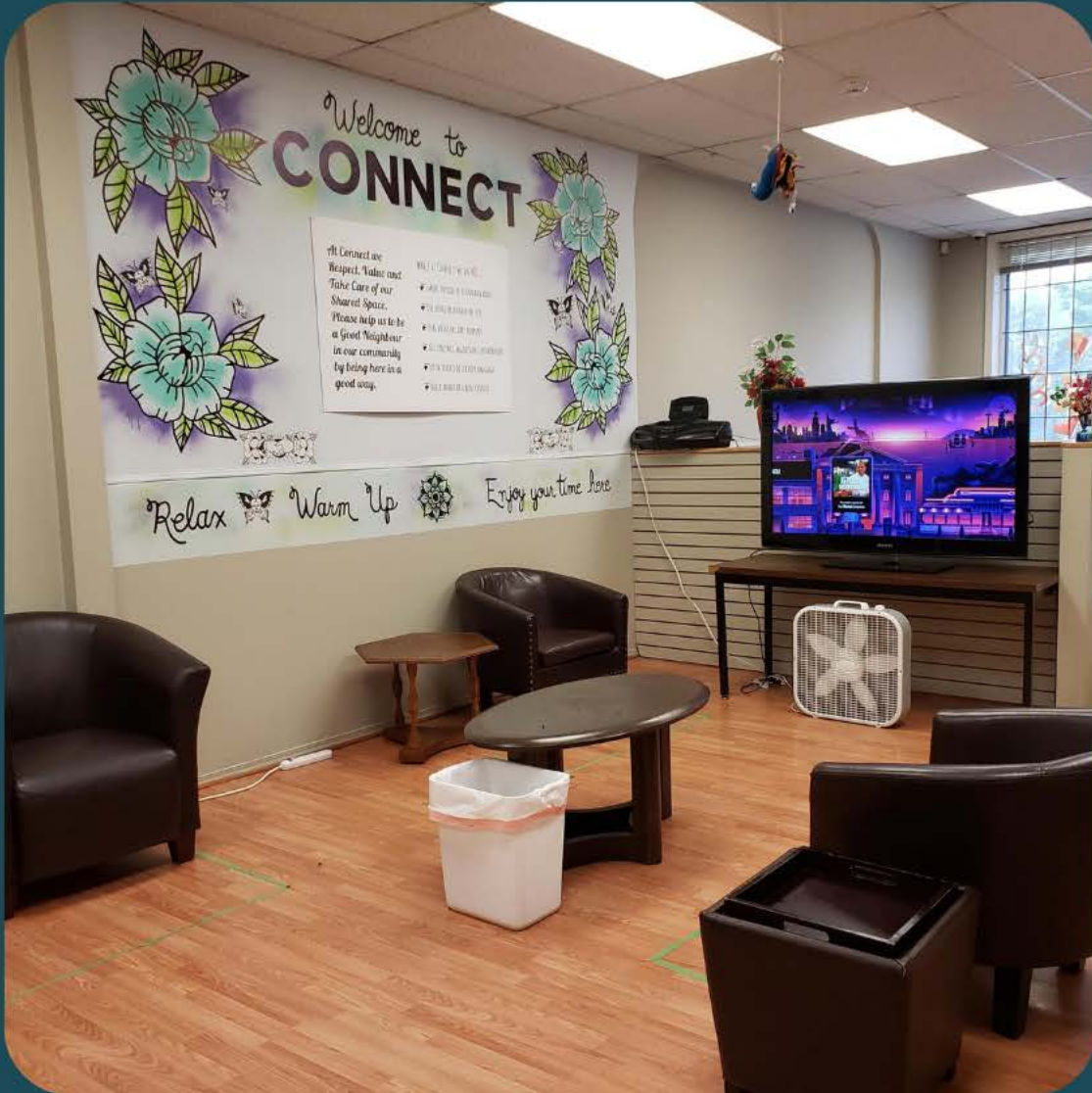


\$1 contributed through the HSS Fund

=

\$19 in additional investment from
other sources generated

Housing Supports: Connect



"I come here to get out of my isolation. It gives me hope."

"I have mental health issues and sometimes I have to go to Connect for support. Sometimes I don't trust myself. It's frightening. This place helps me feel like support is never far away."

"Through Connect I can get in touch with so many different resources to get my needs met."

"This place has been a big help in connecting me in a financial support worker that is helping with reintegration and rent for housing. You have been more than kind with me, and I appreciate it."

"A safe place to be that includes mutual respect, mutual dignity, caring and friendship."

"If I'm not able to calm myself down, you can help and if you can't, you connect me with someone who can and you're there to introduce, which helps me feel comfortable."

The 2020 Point in Time homeless count occurred in the Comox Valley on the evening of March 10 and the day of March 11 to help provide an overall snapshot of homelessness in the community.

132 People were identified as experiencing homelessness compared to 117 in 2018.

Where did individuals stay the night of the count?



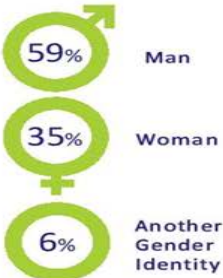
AGE BREAKDOWN



40% Experienced homelessness for the first time as a youth

30% Had been in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth agreement

GENDER



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

13% of respondents identified as 2SLGBTQIA+

TRANS EXPERIENCE

5% of respondents identified as having trans experience

RACIAL IDENTITY



Not listed includes respondents who selected 'Not listed' and may have provided a write-in answer, e.g. nationality, ethnicity or religious group.

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

20% of respondents identified as Indigenous
Compared to 6% of the general population (2016 Census)

HEALTH CONCERNS



33% Reported an acquired brain injury

68% Reported two or more health concerns

LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS

33% Under 6 months

53% 1 year or more

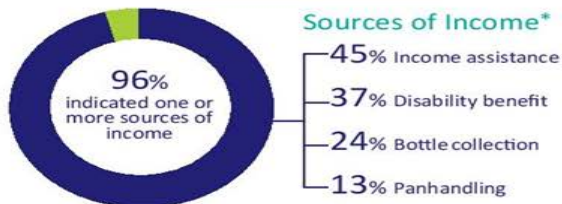
78% of respondents had been in the community for at least 1 year

55% of respondents had been in the community 10 years or more

REASONS FOR HOUSING LOSS*



INCOME



SERVICES ACCESSED*



* Top responses highlighted

2020 Comox Valley Homeless Count

- On March 11th, 2020, the Coalition in partnership with BC Housing and the Homelessness Services Association of BC conducted our 3rd Homeless Count as part of a coordinated response to measure homelessness across BC.
- Homeless counts represent only those individuals identified during a 24-hour period and are understood to be undercounts
 - This is because not everyone experiencing homelessness can be found and not everyone who is found consents to be surveyed.
 - There are many people experiencing hidden homelessness and also those who are precariously housed in the Comox Valley.
- We anticipate due to a variety of economic factors related to the pandemic that more people will experience homelessness in our community (some for the first time).
- The Homeless Count is an important tool (but not the only tool) in our advocacy toolbox.

*COVID-19
Changed
everything*

Pandemic Emergency Housing
Response

Connect Warming Centre

Shower Program

Community Wellness
Collaborative

Homelessness Response
Team

Virtual Coalition meetings

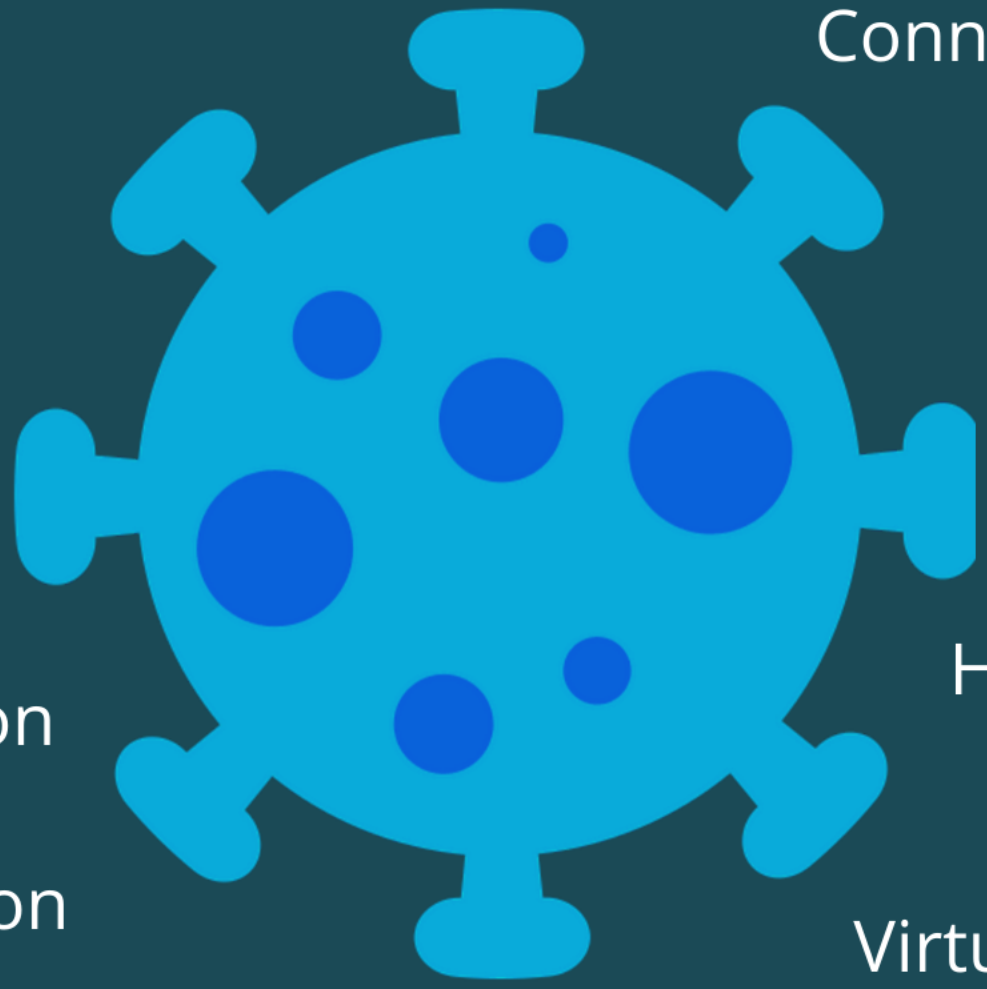
Housing Proposal

Advocacy

Outreach Worker

Pandemic Conversation

Anti-Stigma Education



Year 6 HSS Fund Applications



Gwax'dzi'dsas: Tall Tree Place

22 modular units for families in Cumberland (2,3,4 bedroom) in partnership with Dawn to Dawn

- BC Housing CHF applicant



24-40 studio and 1-bedroom units for Indigenous Elders with some supports, on the Wachiy site in Courtenay.

- BC Housing CHF applicant



1375 Piercy Rd

12 units/3 townhomes. This is for the first townhome. Affordable home ownership model.



Year 6 HSS Fund Recommendations

\$200,000

CVTS: \$100,000

Wachiay: \$70,000

Habitat: \$30,000

- consensus decision making process
- EOI decision making committee
- Reviewing Terms of Reference to incorporate recommendations from the Bylaw Service Review

Get in touch

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Comox Valley Coalition
TO END HOMELESSNESS
