



Nanaimo  
Homeless  
Coalition

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**NHC Meeting**  
**10am - 12pm, December 3, 2020**

**ZOOM Meeting**

In attendance:

Jason Harrison (CMHS), Yvonne Borrows (Salvation Army), Karin Kronstal (CoN), Signy Madden (UWCNVI), Dave Stewart (CoN), Grace Kerr (Service Canada), Andrew Thornton (JHS), John McCormick (JHS), Nadia Boukhouali (MSDPR), Kim Smyth (Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce), Karly Fennell (IH), Terra Kaethler (UWCNVI), Nicole Benson (UWCNVI), Emily Sorensen (UWCNVI), Shelley Johnstone (UWCNVI), Sara Couper (UWCNVI), Violet Hayes (ICCS), Isha Matous-Gibbs (Unitarian Shelter), Heidi Hartman (BC Housing), Amanda Lemon (Island Health), Jane Vinet (NCHN), Corrie Corfield (ICCS), Deborah Hollins (NFLA), Guy Beaulieu (Mid Island Metis Nation), Annemarie Tosh (JHS), (OHWN OCEANSIDE), Laurie MacMillan (MP office), Kirsten Brooker, Kayla Lilledahl, William Singh (Men's Centre), Kim Grantham and Leah (MSDPR), Carolyn Sampson (VI Community Corrections), D. Liek, Steve Arnett, Strider Headworth (Worldtree community), Keith Wilson (NYSA), Christy Wood, Heidi Sinclair (Nanaimo Community), , Erin Hemmens (Nanaimo City Councilor), Rana Van Tuyl (Celebrate our Differences), Nicole Croft and Valerie Sergienko (HelpSeeker)

Co-Chairs: Jason Harrison (CMHA) and Yvonne Borrows (Salvation Army)

**Minutes:**

1. Welcome/Territorial Acknowledgement  
Jason Harrison gave a Territorial Acknowledgement:  
I would like to acknowledge that we live work and play on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish people.
2. Confirm minutes of October 1, 2020 NHC meeting

**MOTION** to accept the Minutes

MOVED – Strider Headworth SECONDED Yvonne Borrows – **PASSED**

### 3. Confirm agenda

#### **MOTION** to accept the Agenda

Notes for changes to agenda:

- 1) Strider if time allows for discussion around food programs for Christmas
- 2) Change to move HelpSeeker update first

MOVED – Andrew Thornton SECONDED Kim - **PASSED**

### 4. Helpseeker Update

- HelpSeeker Update System platform (Nicole Croft and Valerie Sergienko)
  - Valerie Sergienko and Nicole Croft walked the Coalition members through a PowerPoint about the HelpSeeker system platform.
  - HelpSeeker is coordinating activity around systems mapping and ensuring it is meeting the community needs.
  - Highlights:
    - In BC, there are over 12,000 listings, 5086 locations and 6794 programs and services
    - As of Dec 1, 2020 in Nanaimo, there are 747 listings with the listing claimed at 289, which is 38.6% of the listings.
    - There are 420 Programs and services provided by 78 agencies.
    - We encourage service providers to claim their listings and keep the information updated, as a coordinated approach will benefit everyone.
    - In November:
      - Basic needs searches 31%
      - Mental health and addiction 22%
    - There is a Community Service page being worked on for Nanaimo services.
    - There is a free webinar to learn how to connect and update on HelpSeeker.
    - Webinars are done on a monthly basis and are also recorded and can be shared out.

### 5. Community Updates

- Kim Smythe (Chamber of Commerce) - update from business community
  - Last year the Chamber started business health checks to see how businesses are doing. The Downtown businesses are bearing the brunt of social disorder and homelessness issues which are affecting their business, staff, customers and premises. There has been much louder feedback during COVID. We have also since checked in with the Malls in Nanaimo and they are also reporting issues, such as shoplifting, car break-ins, pan handling, etc.
  - Things don't seem to be getting better this year, with small businesses really suffering and struggling to hang on.
  - The Old city quarter started a Community Connect 24-7 number that businesses can call to seek help with issues. This is a private security team funded by themselves initially, but have since received some funding through the City.
  - This is now a pilot project and they are proposing to bring this program to Commercial street businesses, however, small businesses may not be able to back a levy for private security.
  - The Chamber is working on having a Downtown BIA as of next year.
  - There is optimism and resilience but still a lot of disappointment that we are still where we are at and folks want more help for people experiencing homelessness.

- Amanda Lemon (Island Health) –update on new COVID restrictions
  - Amanda is the Manager for Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse formerly held by Norma Winsper.
  - They have a small team working on isolation response for unsheltered folks in our community and they are working 10am-6pm, 7 days a week.
  - Amanda will send out an info sheet to circulate to the group, regarding outreach staff and shelter staff. The outreach team does COVID testing Monday – Friday.
  - We have a COVID related funding proposal for a general practitioner out in a van to provide primary care within the community.
  - There are No positive cases of COVID within our unsheltered population currently.
  - Amanda will connect someone with Isha on solutions for St. Peter’s shelter.
  
- Dave Stewart/Karin Kronstal (Social Planning, City of Nanaimo) – City of Nanaimo updates
  - There has been a fire order issued for Wesley street after a tent fire today.
  - Unsheltered people living on Wesley street will need to find another place to shelter fairly soon.
  - Demolition on the Franklin street Gym will also be moving forward.
  - St. Peter’s winter shelter has 24 beds available, as well as the shelters run by the Unitarian shelter and Salvation Army.
  - The City along with some organizations are working towards establishing a daytime warming center and hope to have a positive announcement fairly soon.
  - 702 Nicol street will have 52 units of supportive housing.
  - The City is working on a child care study to understand needs in the region.
  - The Federal Government has a Rapid Housing Initiative and we are looking to submit an application.
  - The City is working on a Rent Bank that will be opening up in the new year as well.
  - The Health and Housing Task Force action plan is going to City Council on December 14, 2020.
  - The City had a meeting of the Community Health Network and a social needs assessment is being developed by the Regional District of Nanaimo, which is funded by the Ministry of Poverty Reduction.

## 6. Reaching Home Funding Update

- Reaching Home funding update (Terra Kaethler, UWCNVI)
  - Update on Reaching Home allocations for 2020-2021 – both Annual Allocation funding and COVID funding Round 1 and 2.
  - Annual Allocation and Covid Round 1 budget has now all been allocated.
  - A second round of COVID funding has been announced. There is approximately \$400K for Nanaimo Designated and \$300K for Nanaimo Indigenous streams which need to be spent by March 31, 2021.
  - We are currently developing an investment strategy for COVID Round 2 - including possibility of a warming center(s), agency infrastructure needs and supports to cover basic needs. Please let Terra know what your current gaps in service are.
  - Grace Kerr added that there will also be a round 3 COVID funding coming for next fiscal after March 31, 2021, that was just announced this week.

## 7. Pit Count presentation (Andrew Thornton, NJHS) (Attachment)

- There was a presentation to City council in September. Andrew shared the

document and walked through some of the findings. The document can be found at:

[https://www.uwcnvi.ca/application/files/9516/0134/4873/COMMUNITY\\_REPORT\\_Nanaimo\\_PiT\\_Count\\_2020.pdf](https://www.uwcnvi.ca/application/files/9516/0134/4873/COMMUNITY_REPORT_Nanaimo_PiT_Count_2020.pdf)

Presentation Highlights:

- We now have 2 1/2 times more homeless people that we did a few years ago.
  - At least 71% have been here at least 5 years, 68% male with 54% between 25-44 years of age, so much younger than previous counts.
  - Indigenous populations represented 33% in this count.
  - Over 91% of homeless people want to get into permanent housing.
  - As of March 2020 – there were about 150 total shelter spaces in Nanaimo, and 110 supportive housing spaces, not including Nakeo and Newcastle housing sites.
  - There are actually 6000 folks at risk of homelessness, or in and out of different stages of the cycle of homelessness.
  - Pit count is a tool to help define trends – we need to pay attention to the interaction to the 2 sets of data (PiT count and HelpSeeker) and use them together.
  - Link to HelpSeeker Data  
<https://nanaimohomelesscoalition.ca/the-true-demand-for-housing-security-in-nanaimo/>
  - Nanaimo, when looking at a National picture, is in the top 10% of municipalities in terms of the number of homeless people per capita.
8. Communications update (Nicole, UWCNVI)
- There is a survey being sent out re: PPE needs. The province has a surplus of non-medical grade masks, so we are trying to help them get this information out and spread the word.
  - Please check the NHC website for a ton of great information, including the NHC meeting minutes.
  - Thank you so much to everyone that has been sharing our content to get the word out, it makes a huge difference.
  - Please link back to the NHC website from your website if you can to increase traffic.
  - If you have any info to share, events, etc., please contact us!  
Shelley: [comms@nanaimohomelesscoalition.ca](mailto:comms@nanaimohomelesscoalition.ca)  
Nicole: [communications@uwcnvi.ca](mailto:communications@uwcnvi.ca)  
**PPE survey link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S7FNPDW>
9. NHC Governance Committee Update (Jason Harrison, CMHA-Mid-Island)
- o New Draft Terms of Reference – for discussion
  - Jason gave an update on behalf of the Governance Committee on New Draft Terms of Reference recommendations
  - A survey will be sent out to vote on each section so that you can weigh in on the changes.
  - Jason will send it back to the Coalition as to the recommendations that have been shared, and give a last opportunity to comment, and then will follow up to move to a Motion to accept at the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned 12:06pm**

**Next Meeting Feb 4, 2021 10:00am – 12:00pm**