



Health Matters Newsletter July 31, 2019

Today's Health Matters Includes:

• **Reminder: OCCHN Office will be closing for the month of August**

- Meeting Schedule
- Community Meetings and Events
- Local Data and Research-
- Canadian Coalition of Child Rights Fact Sheet on Youth Homelessness
- Municipality of North Cowichan Official Community Plan seeks community advisory members
- Cowichan Community Leaders Seeking Public Support to Address the Housing and Opioid Crisis
- Extra Ordinary Workers Support Program (attached)
- Upcoming Calls for Proposals re: Substance Use



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- ✓ **Next Admin Committee Meeting- September 5, 4:30-6:30** CVRD Committee Room 2
 - ✓ **Next Our Cowichan Network Meeting at September 12, 2019, Ramada Silver Bridge** Light dinner at 5:15 pm Meeting starts at 5:45 pm.

Community Events- Meetings

- **Cowichan Housing and Homelessness Coalition Meeting (All Welcome)**-September 24, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Location to be determined
- **Community Response Team Meeting** September 26, 9 am-11am **Cowichan Community Centre Board Room**
- **EPIC-Community Steering Committee** September 19, 1:30 -3:30 pm Ts'i'ts'uwatul' Lelum

Local Data and or Research-

CCRC Releases Fourth Fact Sheet on Youth Homelessness

In the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC)'s [recent newsletter](#), they released their fourth fact sheet in a series of tools aimed at promoting a more robust review of how we are doing in

Canada with regard to children's rights. The [first fact sheet](#) focused on child welfare; [the second](#) on systemic issues; and [the third](#) on children's health.

The fourth factsheet, [Rights and Preventing Youth Homelessness](#), provides points for discussion and flags three areas for priority attention to reduce youth homelessness in Canada:

1. Focus on prevention and early intervention instead of waiting until crises occur
2. Use rights-based, systems approaches
3. Solve problems with young people

CCRC [invites you](#) (scroll to bottom of page) to reflect on Canada's progress since signing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 30 years ago, by sharing a reflection from your experience and/or hopes for the next stage of this work, or visioning the next stage of work for the CCRC.



MUNICIPALITY OF
NORTH
Cowichan

JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY TO A NEW OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN!

North Cowichan's Official Community Plan (OCP) was last updated in 2011 and it needs a refresh. An OCP establishes the vision, objectives, goals, and priorities for how a community will grow and evolve. YOU are invited to get involved!

BE A COMMUNITY CHAMPION – VOLUNTEER TODAY!

- Apply to volunteer on the OCP Advisory Group or Community Ambassador Team!
- Enter the OCP Logo & Tagline Contest and win \$250!

MORE INFO: www.northcowichan.ca/OCP

Questions? communityplanning@northcowichan.ca | 250-746-3155



For Immediate Release

July 25, 2019

COWICHAN COMMUNITY LEADERS ASKING FOR COMMUNITY HELP TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING AND OPIOIDS CRISIS

DUNCAN – Community leaders in the Cowichan Valley are asking the community for their support to help solve the housing and opioids crises the region is facing.

On June 27th, Chief William Seymour, MP Alistair MacGregor, MLA Sonia Furstenau, Mayors Michelle Staples and Al Siebring, CVRD Chair Ian Morrison, School Board Chair Candace Spilsbury and others met to address the challenges our community is facing. This was the second meeting of community leaders to discuss this crisis and another is planned in August.

The group has been discussing the community needs, such as, low barrier shelter, more funding for staff, security, and neighbourhood support for the services that already exist, such as Warmland, the OPS, and the needle pick up program. Additional wrap around support services for mental health and addictions are needed, as well as, treatment centres, follow up services, a youth shelter, and affordable supportive housing for seniors.

Community leaders are asking for people to help by writing to the provincial and federal governments asking for them to step up and provide what local leaders already know is in great need.

There are also organizations working on the ground every day to support the growing needs and challenges. Everyone and every service is overwhelmed with need, underfunded and under attack. Exhausted service providers need community members to ask what they can do and how they can help.

QUOTES:

“We need everyone who lives in the region to reach out to the province and let them know we need support here. The reason the City sees the most impact along with areas of the Municipality of North Cowichan and Cowichan Tribes is because we service a region of over 80,000 so the majority of people, other than some in Chemainus and Ladysmith, living with homelessness and those dealing with mental health and addiction issues from the entire region, end up in Duncan. making this crisis we are facing something ALL of us have a role and responsibility in working together to develop and fund solutions, to advocate, to volunteer, to help, not hinder the reality of our situation.”

“There are many things needed to address the changes affecting the lives of people who live in our communities. The sentiment that you will build it and they will come needs to be put to rest, we will build it because they are here. I hesitate to put it that way because the last thing I want to add to is the Stigma of Us and Them. They are our neighbors, our children and people who came here, like so many of us, to make a home and live their life in a beautiful place. Things don’t always end up the way we plan and people’s circumstances change and their lives are impacted in ways we cannot understand and should not judge. That being said, the impacts are hard to endure, changes to our personal safety, people’s inability to enjoy where they live and the impacts felt to businesses and community members are compounding every day.” – **Michelle Staples, Duncan Mayor**

"I acknowledge there's considerable community frustration over both the housing situation and the mental health and opioid crisis. We have done as much as we can to move this file forward with the federal and provincial ministries in terms of trying to secure funding for new initiatives, and now it's time for those ministries to hear directly from the community on how critical it is that they to step up to

help. Local governments and Cowichan Tribes simply don't have the capacity to deal with these things on our own." – **Al Siebring, Mayor, District Municipality of North Cowichan**

"The Board of Education of the Cowichan Valley School District is a proud and active partner in providing solutions for issues surrounding poverty and homelessness in the Cowichan Valley. Although we are limited in the scope of what we can do, we are happy to provide available resources for the betterment of our community. The long-term lease of our concession stand on the field of Cowichan Place for use as a women's shelter is a strong example of our commitment," said Candace Spilsbury, Chair of the Board of Education of the Cowichan Valley School District. "There are many organizations in our valley that are working hard towards meaningful solutions to these complex issues. We encourage community members to become active advocates to government to support these solutions to homelessness and poverty." – **Candace Spilsbury, Board Chair, School District 79~ Cowichan Valley**

"As we work together to address challenges in our region, the more we can lift each other up and support the efforts of our service providers, the more time our community can spend focusing and engaging in solutions. It is important for us to work together, and to communicate effectively with the provincial and federal governments about the urgent need we have in Cowichan for more support." – **Sonia Furstenau, MLA Cowichan Valley**

"Local leadership, including representatives from all levels of government, coming together to work on solutions to these crises in our community is a clear indication of the serious need for action. It is my hope that our federal government, in particular, will respond in a sincere and worthwhile way to this demonstration of a united community front and provide the entire spectrum of policy changes and resources necessary to meaningfully help members of our community suffering from housing, mental health, and addictions problems." – **Alistair MacGregor, MP Cowichan-Malahat-Langford**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, MP

Jean-Yves.Duclos@parl.gc.ca

Minister of Health

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor

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GOVERNMENT OF BC:

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Honourable Selina Robinson

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Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Honourable Judy Darcy

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– 30 –

Photo Attached***

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Government of Canada invests in new measures to address the opioid crisis and emerging drug threats.

The opioid crisis represents the most serious public health issue in Canada's recent history. At the same time, the rise of methamphetamine use most notably in the Prairie provinces, presents unique challenges and serious health harms. Additional measures are needed to both address the opioid crisis and respond to emerging threats, like methamphetamines. Today, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, announced that the Government of Canada is providing up to an additional \$76.2 million to address the opioid crisis and problematic substance use... [read more](#).

- and –

July 17/ 2019: Announcement of New Funding Opportunities:

The Government of Canada launched two new anticipatory Calls for Proposals that may be of interest to you. These calls are informed by feedback we have received from stakeholders, including people with lived and living experience of past or current substance use, through the 2018 Opioid Symposium and the recent public consultation on the Controlled Drugs and Substances Strategy.

Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) will fund projects in three streams: 1. Harm reduction, community-led and front-line initiatives; 2. Increasing access to pharmaceutical grade medications as a safer alternative to the contaminated illegal drug supply; and 3. New approaches that address problematic methamphetamine use. Applications for funding must be submitted by Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 1:00 pm Eastern Time. More information, including detailed Guidelines for Applicants, can be found here: [Substance Use and Addictions Program](#). If you have questions regarding this Call for Proposals, or you would like to request an application form, please contact hc.SUAP-PUDS.sc@canada.ca.

Separately, the Public Health Agency of Canada will fund projects that use evidence-based approaches to reduce barriers to care for people who use drugs. Letters of Intent must be submitted by August 30, 2019. More information can be found here: [Pathways to Care](#). If you have questions regarding this Call for Proposals, please contact phac.cgc.solicitations-csc.aspc@canada.ca with the subject line: LOI Pathways to Care.

We invite you to review the Guidelines for Applicants for each Call for Proposals and encourage interested, eligible organizations to apply. It is anticipated that funding decisions for these two Calls for Proposals will be made later this winter, with projects beginning shortly after.

Health Matters Newsletter

Do you have a resource, event or information you would like to share?

Send it to cindylisecchn@shaw.ca and it will be included in the weekly newsletter