

City of Campbell River
301 St Ann's Road
Campbell River BC V9W 4C7

June 14, 2018

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Campbell River Coalition to End Homelessness is a newly formed group of not-for-profit agencies that are working as a collective to plan, coordinate, recommend, support and implement community responses to homelessness and affordable housing. The coalition developed a Terms of Reference and currently has eight official member agencies who meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Campbell River library to discuss solutions to homelessness in Campbell River.

Campbell River needs a continuum of housing solutions that target the full spectrum of age and population groups in the community. BC Housing has recognized a significant gap in the amount of supportive housing for a community of our size.

On September 11th, the Provincial government announced \$291 million in funding over the next 2 years to build 2000 modular units for the homeless, with an additional \$170 million to go towards supports including 24/7 staffing and other services.

The Coalition feels we are well positioned in Campbell River to receive some of this funding and have reached out to BC Housing to determine the process for bringing these much needed units of supportive housing to Campbell River. BC Housing advised that the first step is to work with The City of Campbell River to identify available lands that could be utilized or re-zoned for the purpose of building supportive, modular housing. We will be presenting to Council on June 25th to make this request: *that the City identify municipal land that could be made available for the Rapid Response to Homelessness supportive housing initiative and submit an application to BC Housing.*

We were also advised that many municipalities have already made commitments to BC Housing for these units. If we are to secure this important funding for Campbell River we will need to move quickly.

The National Housing Strategy states that "Good housing policy requires transparent and accountable partnership between the federal government, provinces, territories, municipalities, the social and private sectors, and people with lived experience of housing need". We are asking the City to consider this partnership as an opportunity to effectively and sustainably begin to address the housing crisis in our community.

We appreciate your prompt attention to our request and we are grateful for your help in ensuring all people in Campbell River have access to safe, appropriate, and affordable housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
The Campbell River Coalition to End Homelessness – Working Group

Lindsay McGinn
United Way North Vancouver Island

Natalie Meredith
John Howard Society, North Island

Pat McKenna
Habitat for Humanity, North Island

Keith Hopkins
The Salvation Army

Shelley Howard
CR Head Injury

Libby King
Strathcona Community Health Network

