

Attachment 2

*Proposed Homelessness Action
Plan for 2023*

Proposed Homelessness Action Plan for 2023 (October 2022 to December 2023)

Proposed Actions	Implementation Steps	Responsibility	Resourcing	Timeframe
Coordination and Partnership				
That the City and Homelessness Coalition Society take primary responsibility for the implementation of the Homelessness Action Strategy, and that the City fund and/or access foundation and senior government grants to assist the Coalition with regard to providing coordination services, oversight and resources related to the implementation of specific actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore foundation and senior government funding opportunities for 2024 and beyond. 	City and Homelessness Coalition Society	City has allocated \$32,800 to cover the cost of coordination services in 2023.	Complete (October 2022).
That the Homelessness Coalition Society establish a Homelessness Action Strategy Implementation Working Group, which would be co-chaired by the City and the Coalition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared draft Terms of Reference, which were reviewed and adopted by the Working Group at its inaugural meeting on November 2, 2022. 	City and Homelessness Coalition Society	City will provide logistical support to Working Group, as well as a venue, catering and printing.	Complete (November 2022).
That the Homelessness Action Strategy Implementation Working Group include representation from the Community Action Network (CAN) and/or people with lived and living experience of homelessness and poverty, with specific attention to engaging people from under-represented sub-populations of the unsheltered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition to compensate people with lived and living experience to participate on the Working Group and to be involved in implementation actions. 	City and the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition	BC Poverty Coalition Society has applied for a grant under Reaching Home, which includes funds dedicated to support New West CAN leaders.	Complete (December 2022).
That City staff resource the Working Group, including undertaking updates related to the Homelessness Needs Assessment; assisting in the development of the annual Action Plan; taking a significant role with regard to implementation; collaborating with the Coalition Coordinator to apply for grants and other funding opportunities; tracking indicators to monitor progress in support of implementation; and preparing progress reports and updates to City Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate City staff to resource the Working Group, including related to all identified areas. 	City	City staff involvement regarding resourcing will be included in work programs related to Community Planning.	Ongoing.

Proposed Actions	Implementation Steps	Responsibility	Resourcing	Timeframe
Shelter, Housing and Tenant Support				
That the City continue to fund the administrative costs of the New Westminster Rent Bank Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Report to Council with a status update regarding the Rent Bank Program and a staff recommendation regarding future City funding to help cover administrative costs. 	City	City has allocated \$35,000 to cover administration costs for 2023; future funding would require Council approval.	March 2023.
That the City and Purpose Society advocate for continued senior government funding for the New West Rent Bank Program in order to enhance access to and eligibility for loans, and to ensure that the amounts provided reflect the true cost of rents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate to Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing for additional funding to facilitate enhanced eligibility and access to loans. 	City, Homelessness Coalition Society and Purpose Society		January to August 2023.
That the City continue to advance “social benefit” zoning, such that social benefit land uses are permitted “as of right,” either across the city, in certain geographic areas, or within specific zones, for lands leased to or owned by faith-based and non-profit organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an update report to City Council, and seek their direction in advancing this work. 	City	City has allocated \$20,000 to retain the services of a consultant to undertake this work.	Report to Council in February or March 2023, and if directed, complete work during spring and summer of 2023.
That the City and Homelessness Coalition Society advocate that BC Housing continue to fund existing extreme weather and emergency shelter beds and that it monitor and respond to the need for such beds, including related to specific population groups of the unsheltered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for a 24/7 shelter with 50 beds at 502 Columbia Street, or at another location. • Advocate for a daytime warming centre until a 24/7 shelter and/or new supportive housing is realized. • Advocate for an extreme weather response program shelter with up to 30 mats for 2023/24. 	City and Homelessness Coalition Society	BC Housing	Ongoing.
That the City, in partnership with the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, hold tenant education and information sessions, which deal with legal protections and rights, and address the needs of specific population groups such as newcomers, persons with disabilities and seniors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold tenant education and information sessions with newcomers, persons with disabilities, seniors and other groups at-risk of eviction. 	City and Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre	City has allocated \$3,000 to offer tenant education and information sessions in 2023.	January to December 2023.

Proposed Actions	Implementation Steps	Responsibility	Resourcing	Timeframe
Income, Employment and Financial Literacy				
That the City and Homelessness Coalition Society realize sustainable funding for the “I’s on the Street” micro-street cleaning program, and that it explore related initiatives that engage the unsheltered, provide supported employment opportunities, and address business and resident concerns related to homelessness and other social issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the “I’s on the Street” program as a social enterprise. • Explore sustainable foundation and senior government funding for the “I’s on the Street” program, which would be effective after September 15, 2023. • Explore the Chinatown Community Stewardship Program and its applicability to New Westminster. Stewards could act as liaisons between businesses and the unsheltered, including addressing issues and facilitating safety. • Explore other supportive employment opportunities and related funding. 	City, Homelessness Coalition Society and participating faith-based and non-profit organizations	City received a grant for \$123,736 under the Strengthening Communities Program, which will fund the program in three neighbourhoods until September 15, 2023.	January to December 2023.
That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee and the Homelessness Coalition Society work with mainstream financial institutions to develop and/or promote financial literacy programming and short-term, low-interest loans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Canada Post MyMoney Loan and mainstream financial institutions to promote short-term, low-interest loan programs. • Work with mainstream financial institutions and non-profit organizations to develop and promote financial literacy programming. 	City, Community Poverty Reduction Committee and participating faith-based and non-profit organizations	Explore funding, partnership and sponsorship opportunities.	January to December 2023.

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Services and Supports				
Information and Resources				
That the City continue to prepare and update the Financial Supports Bulletin, Food Resources Calendar, Survival Guide and Tenant Information Update, and that it explore new ways to communicate this information, including through community notice boards and QR codes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore funding and partnerships with regard to better communicating information, particularly to those who lack digital access or literacy. 	City, Douglas College and others	City staff involvement regarding preparation and updating of materials will be included in work programs related to Community Planning.	October 2022 to December 2023.
That the City provide access to a free phone line at City Hall, and that it continue to partner with Douglas College and Purpose Society on digital inclusion initiatives, including the distribution of smart phones, enhanced access to Wi-Fi, installation of charging stations, and provision of training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installed a free phone line at City Hall. Installed indoor device charging stations at faith-based and non-profit organizations. Continue to explore funding and partnerships to enhance access to devices, training and WiFi. 	City, Douglas College and Purpose Society	City received a \$15,000 grant for digital inclusion under Strengthening Communities Program; \$7,700 of which was allocated for indoor device charging stations.	First two steps complete (November and December 2022). Ongoing for third step.
Food Security				
That the City and Homelessness Coalition Society commence foundational work in support of the development of a new Food Security Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain connections to the established Food Security and Resource Hubs in order to monitor emerging needs and to solicit data in support of grant writing and partnership development. Host a roundtable with service providers and all three levels of government. 	City, Homelessness Coalition Society, and faith-based and non-profit food providers	City received a \$5,000 grant under the Community Food Action Initiative to develop a Food Justice Pilot Project. Explore foundation and senior government funding opportunities.	First action, January to December 2023. Second action, April to June 2023.
That the City and Homelessness Coalition Society explore donor and sponsorship opportunities, and access foundation and senior government funding in support of the Food Security and Resource Hubs, and other food security and meal programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the development of a Hosting Fund, which would cover costs related to venue rental, insurance and liability costs, and volunteer support. 	City, Homelessness Coalition Society, and faith-based and non-profit food providers	Explore donor and sponsorship opportunities, and access foundation and senior government funding.	January to December 2023.

Proposed Actions	Implementation Steps	Responsibility	Resourcing	Timeframe
Health, Hygiene and Sanitation Services				
That the City expand availability of toilet facilities for the unsheltered, including through enhanced access to civic facilities, partnerships with faith-based and non-profit organizations, and provision of free-standing, prefabricated toilets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore enhanced access to toilet facilities. Install a free-standing, prefabricated toilet in the Downtown. 	City is partnering with the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning to explore enhanced access to toilet facilities	City received a grant for \$200,000 under the Strengthening Communities Program which will fund interim options to enhance access, and the City has budgeted \$650,000 for a 24/7 free-standing, prefabricated toilet.	Ongoing.
That the City and Homelessness Coalition Society advocate that Fraser Health fund expanded hours (i.e., from 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) for the Health Contact Centre, which provides witnessed consumption and other harm reduction services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a case for support for expanded hours for the Health Contact Centre. 	City, Homelessness Coalition Society, Overdose Community Action Team and Purpose Society	City staff involvement regarding preparation of case for support will be included in work programs related to Community Planning.	January to December 2023.
That the City and Homelessness Coalition Society advocate that Fraser Health fund an inhalation site as part of the Health Contact Centre, or at another site in conjunction with the Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a case for support for an inhalation site in conjunction with the Health Contact Centre. 	City, Homelessness Coalition Society, Overdose Community Action Team and Purpose Society	City staff involvement regarding preparation of case for support will be included in work programs related to Community Planning.	January to December 2023.

Proposed Actions	Implementation Steps	Responsibility	Resourcing	Timeframe
Outreach, Referral and Advocacy Services				
That the City and Homelessness Coalition Society advocate for additional senior government funding to augment homeless outreach, referral and advocacy services, and that the services be tailored to address the specific needs of different population groups of the unsheltered, including related to newcomers, seniors, women and youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore foundation and senior government funding opportunities for enhanced outreach services. Advocate to senior government to adequately and sustainably fund outreach services. 	City and Homelessness Coalition Society	City has allocated \$27,000 to fund enhanced outreach services from January 1 to March 31, 2023, and potential funding has been included under Downtown Livability. City staff will also be seeking adequate and sustainable funding from BC Housing.	January to December 2023.
Frontline Work Remuneration, Training and Education				
That the City and the Homelessness Coalition Society advocate to the Province for enhanced protections, remuneration and training for front-line workers who staff drop-in centres, emergency shelters and supportive housing sites, and provide services and supports to the unsheltered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to the Province for enhanced protections, remuneration and training. 	City and Homelessness Coalition Society		January to December 2023.
Communication, Engagement and Involvement				
That the City, in partnership with the Homelessness Coalition Society and Douglas College, and building on the Arts Empowerment and Social Change Project, implement an anti-stigma program to address misinformation and stereotypes regarding the unsheltered, and to build empathy and receptivity for interventions, including supportive and non-market housing, to address the needs of the unsheltered and precariously housed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement an anti-stigma program to address misinformation and stereotypes regarding the unsheltered. Develop and implement a public education campaign to build empathy and receptivity for interventions to address homelessness. 	City, Douglas College, Homelessness Coalition Society and Overdose Community Action Team	City has allocated \$10,000 to cover the cost of an anti-stigma program and public education campaign in 2023.	January to December 2023.

Proposed Actions	Implementation Steps	Responsibility	Resourcing	Timeframe
That the City, through Economic Development, Community Planning and Integrated Services, regularly update businesses and residents about efforts to address homelessness and other social issues, and that it provide a forum, possibly through 'Be Heard New West,' for feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide regular updates to business and resident associations. • Provide a forum in which to post information and to receive feedback. 	City	City staff involvement will be included in work programs related to identified Departments and Divisions.	January to December 2023.
That the Homelessness Coalition Society develop a "how to make a difference" brochure in which businesses and residents can address homelessness (e.g., advocating for additional services and supports, making a donation, raising awareness about the issue, volunteering at a program, etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop brochure for distribution prior to and during Homelessness Action Week in 2023. 	City and Homelessness Coalition Society	City staff involvement regarding preparation of brochure will be included in work programs related to Community Planning.	January to October 2023.
That the City, Chamber of Commerce or Homelessness Coalition Society develop an award to publicly recognize businesses that are making a difference in addressing homelessness and other social issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an awards program and announce the award recipients at Homelessness Action Week. 	City and Homelessness Coalition Society, and possibly the Chamber of Commerce.		January to October 2023.