

# **SURREY HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING TASK FORCE**

**APRIL 2012 REPORT**

***Progress – Gaps – Needs***

# SURREY STATISTICS 2012

- 2011 Homeless count found 400 people who were homeless, 170 were in shelters. It is estimated that Surrey has 2,000 people who are living in temporary housing.
- Total of 32,475 households in Surrey that live in rental market housing
- 10,430 are in core housing need = 1 in 3 renters
- 3,495 or 33.5 % are households that spend more than half of their income on housing
- 4,356 social housing units and 2,054 rent top up benefits available to meet the need , which leaves 6,074 households that need support.

Access to social housing: there are approximately 4,376 social housing units in Surrey, which is only 13% of the total rental housing units available. 44% of these social housing units house families, 41% house seniors and 15% are targeted to special needs populations including individuals at risk of homeless. Also 850 families and 1,204 seniors receive rental assistance top up for market housing through the RAP and SAFER programs.

Average low market rental rate were: 1 bedroom \$ 610.00, 2 bedroom \$ 718.00 and 3 bedroom \$897.00.

**The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force** unites the community to reduce and prevent homelessness in Surrey. We bring together a broad range of community and government organizations, that provide services to people who are homeless, or at-risk of becoming homeless. Task Force members meet monthly to share information, knowledge, concerns and solutions.



## **Our Purpose**

The Task Force works to unite the local community in order to reduce and prevent homelessness.

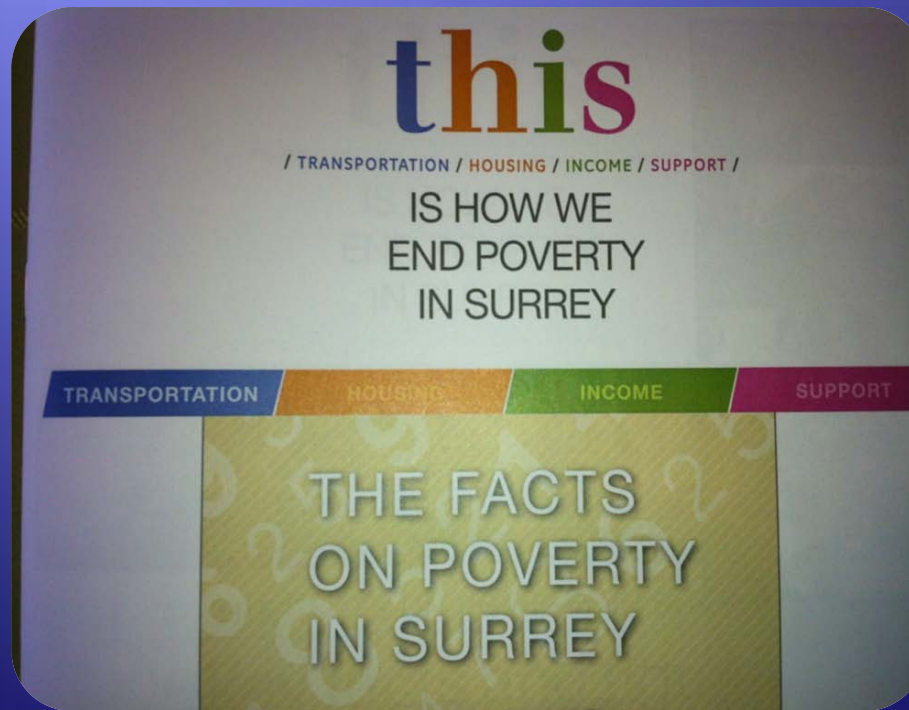
1. Increased coordination and collaboration among service agencies.
2. Increased public awareness of the causes of, and solutions for, homelessness in Surrey.
3. Enhanced engagement of the business community in strategies addressing homelessness.
4. New programs and/or services involving partnerships among task force members.
5. New sources of revenues for ongoing coordination of the task force

# ***Progress***

## ➤ **THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:**

1. Identify gaps in services that reduce or prevent homelessness and promote solutions to gaps identified. ( update gaps and needs report)
2. Promote and enable coordination of services for people who are homeless in Surrey.
3. Raise public awareness of causes, issues and solutions related to homelessness in Surrey.
4. Engage the business community in collaborative solutions to homelessness.
5. Increase the capacity of the task force and its members to address homelessness in Surrey.

## ➤ **RESEARCH REPORT :**



**SHHTF  
collaboration with:**

**Vibrant Surrey,  
The City of Surrey,**

**Fraser Health Authority,  
The Social Planning and  
Research Council of BC**



# HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK:

**Connect Day :** Good food, haircuts, flu shots and dog grooming were the order of the day Wednesday at the Whalley Legion as 250 of Surrey's homeless got a short break from the poverty grind. This is Homelessness Action Week and the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force hosted the Fourth Annual Connect Day. Local businesses and social agencies banded together to provide meals, clothing, health care, counselling.

The day kicked off at 10 a.m. with a pancake breakfast and wrapped up in mid-afternoon after everyone enjoyed a good lunch.

Ryan, 22 and homeless for about a month, was impressed.

"I didn't expect all this. I just thought there would be pancakes," he said as he waited his turn for a free haircut.

Just a few feet away from where volunteers were giving haircuts and shaves, the Salvation Army had tables set up with free clothing for those in need. Across the way, volunteers from SALI, the Semiahmoo Animal League Inc., were hard at work bathing dogs, clipping nails and dispensing pet vaccinations.



# HOMELESSNESS AWARENES

➤ **Municipal Election all  
Candidates Meeting  
Community Discussion on  
Homelessness in Surrey**

➤ **Surrey Board of Trade  
Business Breakfast:**

Ending Homelessness is 'good for  
business'

Business organizations in the Lower  
Mainland agree homelessness  
presents challenges to the daily  
functions of business

➤ **Pledge to End Homelessness**  
[pledgetoendhomelessness.org](http://pledgetoendhomelessness.org)





# **GAPS AND NEEDS**

- Gender specific emergency shelter and/or safe house for 20+ youth
- Emergency shelter for aboriginal people, operated by aboriginal-run organization
- Emergency shelter beds for seniors
- Additional emergency shelter for families with children/youth
- Additional Transitional housing for:
  - Aboriginal families
  - Youth, gender-specific, for both males and females
  - Women fleeing violence (including culturally sensitive for South Asian women)
  - Young women leaving the sex trade
  - Supportive housing for new immigrants, in particular South Asian women leaving transitional housing
- Affordable rental housing for low income families and singles: approximately 5,500 units needed, based on 10% population growth since 2006
- Partnerships between employers and support services
- Social enterprise to employ marginalized or disadvantaged persons
- Better coordination of resources and services through collaboration among agencies and major centres.
- Additional Outreach workers and programming for at-risk and substance users, specifically in the sex trade, and gambling addicts
- More gender specific youth-oriented alcohol and drug treatment programs

# BARRIERS

- ACCESS TO FUNDING
- CAPACITY OF ORGANIZATIONS TO SUCCESSFULLY APPLY FOR FUNDING
- COMPETITION FOR SHRINKING DOLLARS
- HOMELESS POPULATION ARE FACING INCREASED NEED FOR SUPPORT SERVICES TO GET HOUSING AND KEEP HOUSING



## SHHTF MEMBERS



- Atira Women's Resources Society
- BC Housing
- Coast Mental Health Society
- Community Living BC
- Cwenengitel Society
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- First United Church
- Fraser Health Authority
- Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness
- Kila How Eya Aboriginal Services
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Ministry of Social Development
- New Hope Community Service
- Nightshift Ministries
- Options and Hyland House
- Pacific Community Resources Society
- Phoenix Centre
- Progressive Inter-cultural Services
- YWCA
- Salvation Army
- Servants Anonymous Society of Surrey
- SOURCES
- South Fraser Community Services
- South Fraser Women's Services
- Surrey Food Bank
- Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund
- Surrey Urban Mission