

TRI-CITIES HOMELESSNESS TASK GROUP

PRESENTATION TO COMMUNITY
HOMELESSNESS TABLE FORUM
24 APRIL '12

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Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group
www.tricityeshomelessness.ca

Progress since 2010 in Ending Homelessness

1. CWW Mat Program has been operating 5 yrs Nov – March:
 - 5 host churches on a rotating basis
 - Hundreds of volunteers
 - 697 different patrons (yr + yr basis)
 - 163 patrons assisted to transition from the street (some since returned)
 - Raised the profile of homelessness in the Tri-Cities



Progress since 2010 in Ending Homelessness

2. Tri-Cities emergency shelter & transitional housing facility:

- City of Coquitlam land
- Rezoning campaign in the face of strong and bitter neighbourhood opposition
- Provincial capital and operating funding confirmed
- RainCity selected
- In-service “late Spring 2014”



Progress since 2010 in Ending Homelessness

3. Community Addictions Strategy for Persons who are Homeless in the Tri-Cities
 - Completed Oct. 2009
 - Launched “Three Things” campaign
 - foster a community in which all human beings are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of station in life or substance misuse issues



**What do these
three people
have in common?**



They all suffer from addiction.

Addiction takes on many faces.

Challenge the stereotype.

ThreeThings.ca

What do these three things have in common?



They are all methods of harm reduction.

Harm reduction takes on many forms. It is about promoting health and safety, not enabling drug use. Challenge the stereotype.

Barriers (challenges) Experienced since 2010 in Ending Homelessness

1. Funding for addictions + medical support services
2. Shelter harm reduction model
 - Council/neighbourhood education
3. Municipal donor fatigue – paddling upstream against a perception of provincial downloading



Barriers (challenges) Experienced since 2010 in Ending Homelessness

4. Advocating to 3 Tri-Cities councils = 3 x the work, 1/3 the fun

5. Task Group sustainability

- Leadership

- funding source for coordinator

- Keeping objectives fresh & energizing

- importance of practical, realistic objectives in current economic & political climate

- tangible successes to sustain commitment

