
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 2002
FILE: 5040-20

TO: City Manager

FROM: Community Planning Manager

RE: Update on the Homelessness Steering Committee, Supporting Community Partners Initiative, HRDC

REPORT PREPARED BY: Theresa Eichler

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive this report to update Council on the homelessness projects resulting from the federal Supporting Community Partners Initiative in Kelowna, for information.

PURPOSE:

This report is submitted for information purposes to Council.

BACKGROUND:

Council will recall a presentation in July of 2001 to update the City on the work of the Homelessness Steering Committee to direct federal dollars allocated to Kelowna and address the needs of the homeless in our City. Council also is aware of the work of the National Housing Policy Options Team (NHPOT) to urge the federal and provincial governments to address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing. The City of Kelowna joined NHPOT in 2000, based on the recommendation that was adopted by Council. NHPOT members communicate through email and conference telephone calls. Recent housing agreements between federal, provincial and territorial governments received input from NHPOT. Jack Layton, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, serves as Chair of this Team.

Partially as a result of the efforts of municipalities across the country to communicate the homelessness crisis to the federal government, commitments to spending by the federal government have been made for a total of \$753 million, known as the Homelessness Initiative, across the country. Kelowna has been identified as one of the communities to benefit from federal spending to address homelessness. The Homelessness Initiative is implemented by Human Resources and Development Canada (HRDC) through several programs, as follows (to learn more go to: http://www21.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/home/index_e.asp):

- Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) (the work of the Kelowna Homelessness Steering Committee is focused on this program)
- Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS)
- Youth Homelessness Strategy
- Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI)
- CHMC Renovation and Conversion Programs
- Planning and Research

REPORT:

In 2001, a Community Plan was prepared to address spending of \$1,340,377 under the Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI). Expressions of interests were issued and the Steering Committee has worked hard in 2001 & 2002 to allocate funds in accordance with the Community Plan (found at: <http://www.bchousing.net/bulletins.htm>). The Chair of the SCPI Steering Committee is Michael Loewen, Executive Director of the United Way, who is also a member of the City's Social Planning Board.

Over a period of three years, ending in 2003, \$1,340,377 is to be spent under the SCPI program in the city of Kelowna. The steering committee has identified priorities, including a women's shelter, a youth detoxification facility, a nutritional supplement program, transitional housing for aboriginal youth, and outreach workers. The steering committee will likely continue to meet to implement the community plan and evaluate submissions for funding. Partnerships for funding are sought from other agencies in the City, including other levels of government and private organizations. In addition to the SCPI funding, commitments of \$254,400 and \$299,570 to homelessness over the three year period have been made for the city of Kelowna under the federal Youth Homeless Initiative and the federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy, respectively.

Michael Loewen will be available to update Council on the SCPI projects and to answer questions. Other members of the Steering Committee may be in attendance at the Council Meeting and would also be pleased to answer any questions of Council.

SUMMARY

This report serves to update City Council regarding the work arising from the Community Plan on Homelessness to address how \$1,340,377 of federal money under the HRDC Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative will be spent in the city of Kelowna over a three year time frame. It identifies the City's role, up to the present, in this process.

Theresa Eichler, MCIP
Community Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion



R.L. (Ron) Mattiussi, ACP, MCIP
Director of Planning & Development Services

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Attachment: Electronic: Summary of Michael Loewen's Presentation on behalf of the Homelessness Steering Committee

PRESENTATION TO KELOWNA CITY COUNCIL AUGUST 12, 2002

PROGRESS REPORT: THE KELOWNA HOMELESSNESS STEERING COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION:

Federal Homelessness Initiative initiated in 1999 in response to concerns raised by municipalities.

\$750 million allocated to address homelessness over three years. \$305 million through Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI).

80% to larger cities; \$1.9 million to Kelowna.

THE KELOWNA SCENE

Local Task Force struck in January 2001 with more than forty local organizations represented including the City of Kelowna.

Scope and relevance of local situation. The municipal challenge.

Definitions and demographics: relative and absolute homelessness.

The nature of the problems.

EXISTING SERVICES AND NEW PROGRAMS

We have a well-developed range of services in Kelowna.

Identified service gaps and priorities for needed services.

Five new programs introduced through SCPI and the National Homelessness Initiative.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Relative homelessness: people at risk.

8,000 low-income households in Kelowna; 20,000 people.

Housing is the basis for social inclusion and participation.

The cost of homelessness is higher than the solution.

CALL FOR JOINT ACTION

Tri-sector teamwork: cooperation from all sectors and participation from all levels of government is required.