

Request to Appear as a Delegation

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All information provided on this page, as well as any additional pages submitted, may be included in the agenda package, which is published in print and forms part of the permanent public record.

Name of Delegation: Tri-Cities Homelessness & Housing Task Group
Name of Primary Contact Person: Cristina Pereira
Name(s) of Delegation Member(s) in Attendance: Cristina Pereira & Keir MacDonald
Purpose of Delegation: Requesting funding for our coordinator position
Details of Request: We would like to request funding for the Task Group Coordinator for an additional 2 year period beginning Nov 1st, 2022. The proposed annual budget for the Task group Coordinator position is \$20,322.00 including GST (\$33.87/hr, 50 hrs/month, 12 mos/year). With a Task Group Coordinator in place, the services of a Committee Clerk are not required. In the past we have utilized municipal meeting space on a rotating basis. Currently, meetings are taking place virtually and will likely carry forward as such until further notice. This is a joint request, asked of the Tri-Cities municipalities, and the amount asked of each municipality is arrived at using the Simon Fraser Formula and is appropriated as such: City of Coquitlam: $\$20,322 \times .6161 = \$12,520.38/\text{yr} \times 2\text{yrs} = \$25,040.77$ City of Port Coquitlam: $\$20,322 \times .2359 = \$4,793.96/\text{yr} \times 2\text{yrs} = \$9,587.92$ City of Port Moody: $\$20,322 \times .1480 = \$3,007.66/\text{yr} \times 2\text{yrs} = \$6,015.31$
Additional Information in Support of Request: Details including the Task Group's mission statement, a list of participating organizations/stakeholders, Task Group accomplishments, and the Task Group Coordinator's job description were sent in with our request.

Received at the April 25, 2023, Regular Council meeting

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Tri-Cities
**Homelessness
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#20 – 2991 Lougheed Hwy,
Coquitlam, BC V3B 6J6

December 21, 2022

Mayor Richard Stewart,
City of Coquitlam

Mayor Brad West,
City of Port Coquitlam

Mayor Meghan Lahti
City of Port Moody

Dear Mayors,

We have appreciated your support over these past two years as our communities have faced unprecedented challenges brought upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic, on-going drug poisoning crisis, and of course the significant number of individuals that are facing affordability challenges in all areas of their lives. This has made finding safe, secure, and appropriate housing an unattainable goal for many.

The Tri-Cities Homelessness & Housing Task Group remains more committed than ever to driving changes within our community, which will reduce the number of people living on the streets and enabling us to reach our ultimate goal of eradicating homelessness. To this end, in the next few months The Task Group will be looking at embarking on a strategic planning process to help identify our key goals and actions which will really help drive and focus our efforts. Your on-going support is essential to this work.

We would like to request funding for the Task Group Coordinator for an additional 2-year period beginning November 1, 2022. The proposed annual budget for the Task Group Coordinator position is \$20,322.00 including GST (\$33.87/hour, 50 hours/month, 12 months/year). With a Task Group Coordinator in place, the services of a Committee Clerk are not required. In the past we have utilized municipal meeting space on a rotating basis. Currently, meetings are taking place virtually and will likely carry forward as such until it is safe to meet. Should we be able to convene in person meeting space on a rotating basis would be appreciated.

We have been successful on numerous occasions in securing funding; for example, to support the annual Homelessness Action Week activities and for the overhaul of our website. Given that granting organizations typically do not provide funding to sustain operations, we would be grateful if each of the Tri-Cities municipalities would consider jointly providing this funding. Under the terms of the Simon Fraser Formula, each municipality would contribute the following amount:

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City of Coquitlam: $\$20,322.00 \times .6161 = \$12,520.38$ /year = **$\$25,040.77$**

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City of Port Moody: $\$20,322.00 \times .1480 = \$3,007.66$ /year = **$\$6,015.31$**

To aid in your decision, please find attached the Task Group's mission, a list of participating organizations, Task Group accomplishments, and the job description for the Task Group coordinator. The Task Group's Terms of Reference are available upon request. Funds received will be held in trust by Share Family Services, the Task Group's financial account holder.

Thank you for the City's consideration.

Yours truly,

Keir Macdonald 

Keir Macdonald & Cristina Pereira
Co-Chair, Tri-Cities Homelessness & Housing Task Group



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June 2018 – Present

In addition to maintaining the earlier mandates and visions, the Task Group has also:

Additional funding from UBCM to support creation/implementation of Extreme Weather Shelter

Additional funding from UBCM to update Strategic Plan and outdated Terms of Reference

Full Winter Shelter and EWR coordination

Resurrected Community Connect Day in November 2022. Plans are underway to replicate the event 2 times per year. the purpose of Connect Day is to give people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness access to a wide range of health and other support services that they otherwise may have difficulty accessing on the street, all under one roof.

Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by working closely with BC Housing and Fraser Health to open a Capacity Expansion Shelter. Successfully worked with all stakeholders to ensure proper services were delivered with little impact on neighboring businesses and residents.

Provided hands on support at the Emergency Response Shelter at Trinity United during the early days of the pandemic until its closing on March 31.

Reworked the existing HTG website with the support of a SPARC Homelessness Community Action Grant.

At the request of BC Housing, took the lead on monthly calls with BCH, Fraser Health, Raincity, and all municipalities. The intent of the call is to collaborate at all levels to find workable solutions to get supportive housing for the homeless.

Actively updated the Street Survival Guide to reflect the fluid nature of COVID-19 response.

Began conversations with the Reaching Home Team to identify local projects in need of Capital Grant Funding.

Began conversations to work with all levels of government to ensure those with no fixed address have the opportunity to vote in all elections.

Worked closely with the Community Development Coordinator for the newly formed **Community-based Overdose Response Team** to identify gaps in services in the Tri-Cities.



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The Homelessness Frontline Network has caught the attention of neighboring communities who have requested to attend a meeting in hopes of replicating in their communities.

Continued to work with and support **3030 Gordon Shelter** in hopes to ease the burden on the heavy workload which organically falls to them.

Assisted in the reactivation and rallied public support for the church-hosted, rotating **Cold Wet Weather Bridge Shelter Program** concept as an interim measure pending opening of a permanent emergency shelter.

Supported the residents of **1955 Western Drive** who were unexpectedly made aware of an “application to permit” to the City of Port Coquitlam for “major renovations” in Port Coquitlam and were facing eviction.

Created and coordinated community-wide support for **Atira Housing Project** – Port Coquitlam, during public consultation and public hearings.

Spoke up in support of and provided letters of support for **PoCo Integrated Court**.

Advocated with Fraser Health for **Sharps Disposal Boxes** throughout the community.

Supported Fraser Health on the opening of the first **OAT Clinic** in Port Moody.

Expanded and maintained the **Street Survival Guide** which provides contact information of services available for homeless persons in the Tri-Cities.

Taking steps to create a **Street Survival App for iPhone and Android** utilizing the students from the Inquiry Hub in Coquitlam.

Successfully submitted a nomination package for **Community Member of the Year** to the **Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards** nomination package for former Task Group Coordinator, Sandy Burpee.

Various activities for **Homelessness Awareness Week** - Distributed comfort kits to area agencies who service the homeless; supported Stories from the Street at Coquitlam Library; selected personal hygiene products for the homeless at area Vancity branches; organized lunch served by Pasta Polo at 3030 Gordon.

Took steps to increase the number of **hot meals** per week from 4 to 7 (one per day.)

Put on **Homelessness - a Primer for Business** in conjunction with the Downtown BIA in Port Coquitlam and Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce in Coquitlam.



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Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Group Strategic Plan – struck a committee to complete a 5-year strategic plan. Our Strategic Plan was written to coordinate with the ***City of Coquitlam 3030 Gordon Task Force Action Plan***

Distributed Bed Rolls from the Fraser Pre-Trial Centre to a variety of services who work with the Homeless.

Created a list of Tri-Cities ***Volunteer Opportunities*** in response to community members and groups looking to volunteer their time and resources.

Facilitation a collaboration with key stakeholders to address the ***Housing Crisis in the Tri-Cities*** - BC Housing, Fraser Health, Hope for Freedom Society, City Planners, Council Representatives, etc.

Worked to gain clarity around proper ID for people with no fixed address to vote in ***2018 municipal election***.

Began taking steps to set up a ***Polling Station*** at 3030 Gordon or ***Mobile Voting*** for next municipal election.

Continue to sit in on ***key meetings***, attend ***conferences*** and sit at ***various tables*** – Tri-Cities Healthier Community Partnerships, Council of Community Homelessness Table, Regional Conversation on Youth Homelessness, BC Rental Housing Coalition, HSABC Conference, Work BC Inclusiveness Forum, Coquitlam Housing Forum.



Tri-Cities
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Job Description Task Group Coordinator

Job Purpose:

The Task Group Coordinator will carry out the week-to-week activities of the Tri-Cities Homelessness & Housing Task Group in support of the Task Group's mission, role, goals and objectives.

Job Duties:

- ◆ In concert with the Task Group Executive Committee, develop an annual action plan with input from the standing committees and Task Group participants;
- ◆ Support the Task Group, its committees and working groups in implementing the annual action plan and report on accomplishments at year-end;
- ◆ Implement the Task Group communication and marketing plan to maintain and expand community awareness and engagement in issues of homelessness and housing affordability;
- ◆ Maintain and update the Task Group website as a vibrant social media platform;
- ◆ Use social media channels to create public support for issues of homelessness and housing affordability;
- ◆ Be a single point of contact for media and the public, and for information distribution to the membership;
- ◆ Maintain and expand Tri-Cities faith group engagement with Task Group activities, including publishing a semi-annual Task Group newsletter;
- ◆ Recruit new Task Group participants that fit the mandate of the Task Group Terms of Reference;
- ◆ Prepare the agenda for the bi-monthly plenary Task Group meeting in concert with the Chair;
- ◆ Act as recorder at bi-monthly plenary Task Group meetings and distribute meeting minutes;
- ◆ Maintain the Task Group participant and e-mail lists;
- ◆ Provide updates to the Task Group on the progress of affordable housing project proposals in the Tri-Cities;
- ◆ Collect and disseminate up-to-date information on the prevalence and nature of homelessness and housing need in the Tri-Cities;
- ◆ Keep the Tri-Cities Street Survival Guide up to date;
- ◆ Convene semi-annual meetings of the Tri-Cities Homelessness Frontline Network and keep the "Resource Toolkit" up to date;
- ◆ Represent the Task Group on the Tri-Cities Healthier Communities Partnership, the Council of Community Homelessness Tables and the BC Rental Housing Coalition.