



ABORIGINAL COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

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March 15, 2023

Attention: Don Elliott
 Capital Regional District
 625 Fisgard Street
 Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Re: Final Report on Scope & Deliverables for 2022-23/Capital Regional District

Introduction

Since inception as a housing provider in 2018, the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) Society has experienced remarkable growth. With over 100 employees, the organization currently manages two culturally supportive housing sites, and has just opened a third 44-unit building in April 2023. Additionally, the ACEH operates three office spaces including a downtown storefront that welcomes the Indigenous Street Family. The organization has also expanded its departments, which now include youth, outreach, research, and housing development.

Despite having demonstrated significant results and reached out to multiple provincial ministries and Members of the Legislative Assembly, as well as federal ministers and Members of Parliament, the ACEH has not yet been able to access the core funding it requires.

In order to sustain our efforts and meet the expanding needs around finance, human resources, staff recruitment, retention, and more, we have been forced to submit up to 40 proposals per year simply to keep our doors open. This is an unsustainable pace that cannot be maintained by any Executive Director.

The ACEH would like to express its deep appreciation for the contribution made by the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Hospital and Housing Committee towards critical positions such as the Executive Director and Associate Director, as well as for overhead expenses. This funding is essential in allowing us to continue our important work.

The Executive Director Report on Deliverables 2022-23

Deliverable	Updates
Development and opening of Catherine Street House: development, research, planning, and implementation of 45 unit culturally-supportive house scheduled (delayed) to open in Fall 2022 on Catherine Street in Vic West.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House of Courage (Kwum Kwum Lelum) celebrated its opening March 31st, 2023, and welcomes in Family Members (residents) April 10th, 2023.

Development of the Indigenized Alcohol Detox including Indigenized Alcohol Detox program

- 14 units at House of Courage will be reserved for the Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Program and the recovery/detox program. In preparation for the opening, a Recovery Model was completed with rollout/implementation beginning April 1st, 2023. The Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Program has expanded to include cannabis substitution programming and research. Since fiscal 2020-21, in partnership with University of Victoria, University of Alberta, and the Calgary Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness (ASCHH), the Executive Director has been leading a 3-year research project to co-create and co-design a residence managed alcohol program (MAP) that supports Indigenous peoples living in Calgary and Victoria who struggle with homelessness and severe alcohol use disorder. The research teams meet on an ongoing basis, and the ACEH consults with an Elders and Knowledge Keepers Advisory comprised of representatives from the three island tribal groups, Metis Nation, First Nations Health Authority, doctors, health care providers and traditional healers. In fiscal 2022-23 the ACEH brought Elders & Knowledge Keepers Advisory to Alberta to visit the Calgary research team and Ambrose Place (a managed alcohol program in Edmonton also led by Indigenous peoples).

Lead Phase 2 of the **Indigenous Systems Improvement Map (ISSIM)** research project with a team of researchers. Oversee the continued work of the Collaborative Response Network made up of 10 most-accessed organizations as determined by the ISSIM.

- September 28th, 2022, Collaborative Response Network Meeting
- February 7th, 2023, Collaborative Response Network Meeting
- The Collaborative Response Network continues to meet and as a network are considering growing our membership. A couple of community partners have been identified that were not originally identified by the street family because their service provision is invaluable. An example is the John Howard Society. They offer damage deposits, first month's rent, and support to individuals leaving corrections. There is a considerable amount of overlap with the CRN and the work of the John Howard

	<p>Society. We will continue to review the membership with the lens that members at the table are there to identify and, in some cases, fill the gaps that our street family is experiencing. There is an adaptable and open-hearted membership that is working hard to keep system-change and streamlined system navigation at the forefront of the work that we do as a network.</p>
<p>Development and implementation of the 5-Year Housing Strategy which will include a Youth Housing Strategy. Financial projections point to 250 housing units as a solid baseline towards financial sustainability and security. 250 units will provide the base core funding needed for staffing and operations for the organization.</p>	<p>Where We Are Going: Five Year Housing Strategy – Four Strategic Directions</p> <p>Direction One: YOUTH PREVENTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homeless Prevention: Youth Care and Healing House - Transitions from incarceration through the ACEH’s Place of Hope program - Program partnerships with experienced youth housing providers to address current precarity. <p>Direction Two: FAMILY (RE)UNIFICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transitional Housing for FNIM Moms & Babies - Family reunification units in all new supportive sites and an additional townhouse in Victoria for Family Reunification as part of the Evergreen redevelopment. <p>Direction Three: ISLAND-WIDE EXPANSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culturally Aligned Integrated Support (CAIS) Program – wrap around supports in private market housing. - Kwakwaka’wakw Housing/CAIS Partnership 2023-24 - Nuuchahnulth Housing Partnership/CAIS 2024-25 - Apply to Requests for Proposals for Supportive Housing and Rent Supplements as they are announced. <p>Direction Four: HOUSING&SERVICE TRANSITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wellness House – pre and post treatment services, cultural support, employment and training, and transition to independent housing. - Land Acquisition to further develop our land-based programming.
<p>Continue leading the operations of the Family Reunification Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solidified funding for full-time Family Reunification Program Coordinator for

<p>including management of the Family Townhouse.</p>	<p>2023-24 fiscal year. Expanded programming to include family reunification for all ACEH Family Members living in ACEH housing (appx. 63 individuals and their families to benefit from program).</p>
<p>Leading the Gender-Based Violence research project: Funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada this 3-year project (commenced in fiscal 2021-22) will increase Indigenous women’s safety by honouring their proposed solutions, strengthen relationships with the Victoria Police Department, and engaging an island-wide network of leaders committed to this goal from Port Hardy to Victoria, while also collaborating on 4 webinars.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Island-wide networking with Port Hardy, Campbell River, and Nanaimo. - In 2022, the ACEH and the Victoria Police Department continued their 3-Year project in the spirit of Calls for Justice 9.2 and 9.7, to increase safety for Indigenous women and 2S+ peoples. Three Relationship Building Days were held in the year with Victoria Police Officers, Indigenous women, and ACEH staff, with the goal to gradually (re)build trust, develop stronger relationships, and break down stigma. All were well attended, with Saanich PD taking an interest in the work and joining for the third cultural feast event. The year culminated in a Gathering of leadership, where we planned for longer-term commitments to support Indigenous women in our respective community roles (i.e., hiring practices, cultural competency performance measurement). This day was witnessed and supported by community partners as well as Elders from the surrounding Nations. Other notable outcomes from this year included the Victoria Police Department receiving approval for a Cultural Liaison position, with support from the ACEH based on the voices of the Indigenous Street Family. Also of note, the ACEH received the 2022 Safe Communities Award from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in recognition of this project's impact.
<p>Developing a curriculum for Housing Providers: the ACEH began studying the viability of educational and curricular opportunities in partnership with the University of Victoria’s centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement, and the University of Victoria’s Faculty of Law Indigenous Initiatives program (along with other willing potential partners). The ACEH wants to find out how to formulate a blend of on-campus, practicum and field work instruction that advances knowledge on the pressing health and social challenges that Indigenous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tabled until next fiscal year, with the return of Coreen Child who will lead this work. - Meeting scheduled May 16th, 2023 with University of Victoria.

peoples face in Canada, and how we may better serve them in various social sectors, ranging from health care, social work, law and Justice, youth work, and public health. In fiscal 2022-23, the ACEH will meet with various stakeholders to begin this work.

Decolonized Harm Reduction Framework Development and Implementation

- Indigenous healing modalities are being continuously piloted and evaluated as a way for the Indigenous Street Family to heal from harms rooted in colonialism. These include land-based healing, access to Elder Mentors, the Family Reunification Program, and an Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Program, among others. This work is ongoing as the ACEH gathers knowledge and builds relationships with communities Vancouver Island-wide.
- The Decolonized Harm Reduction Framework - SECTIONS:

- Early Lessons Learned*
- Wisdom of the Elders Gathering*
- Land-Based Healing*
- Native Plant and Medicine Garden*
- Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Program*
- Family Reunification Program*
- Youth-Specific Approaches*
- Wellness Services*
- Elders Gathering 2022*
- Indigenous Justice Program*
- Bringing it All Together: 12-Month Land-Based Healing Program*

- Will be completed by May 30, 2023.

Lobbying for core-funding

- Reached out to First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the forefront of our work, have consistently brought forward to MP - Laurel Collins and MLA Grace Lore - Received \$100,000 from Victoria City Council
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Associate Director Deliverables

Represent ACEH at key community tables:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAA Advisory; CAA Placement Committee (in keeping with the Community Plan and Reaching home directives) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Associate Director took Educational/Medical Leave - Director of Housing Development and Community Services, and Executive Director share the role of sitting at this table.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCI working group to ensure a culturally appropriate lens is being applied in the development of a regional systems change processes that address the issue of homelessness 	Incomplete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Service Provider monthly meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach and Community Relations Manager, Monique Horne at this table until December 2022 - Now the Director of Housing Development and Community Services participates on this table
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Advisory Primary Network Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Table is idled, will re-engage when Coreen Child returns to ACEH April 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Networking Circle: Continue ongoing engagement with the Indigenous Networking Circle and ensure a representative from the ACEH attends the meetings. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (GVCEH) Collaborations: Monthly participation on the GVCEH Steering Committee (Community Plan, Reaching Home, Systems Improvement, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executive Director attends

GVCEH – Memorandum of Understanding, etc.)	
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Annual Budget

Description	Amount
Chief Executive Officer contribution to salary	\$40,000
Executive Director of Operations contribution to salary	\$50,000
ACEH Overhead related costs	\$60,000
Total	\$150,000

Conclusion

Sincerely,

Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi
Executive Director, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society
