



## October 2016 Newsletter

### Peninsula Homeless to Housing Task Force

*Our Mission is to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness on the South Surrey White Rock Peninsula to live in safe and appropriate housing*

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am  
White Rock Baptist Church, 1657-140<sup>th</sup> St. Surrey.**  
*Please circulate to your contacts/congregations.*

October 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> is the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Homeless Action Week in British Columbia. The week was originally organized to raise awareness, and to highlight community actions that have worked to end homelessness in Metro Vancouver. In Surrey/White Rock there are a number community events organized this year.

#### **HOMELESS CONNECT DAY**

Numerous service providers will be available in a one stop shop to assist people who are homeless. Organized by the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

10 AM – 2 PM

Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre  
13458 107A Avenue, Surrey

#### **HOMELESS AWARENESS MARCH**

The march is been organized for several years through SOURCES Newton Advocacy Programs. This is a chance for any and every one to show their support to ending homelessness in Metro Vancouver with a short march along King George Boulevard.

Friday October 14<sup>th</sup>

10:30am – 1:30pm

#102 -13771 72A<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Surrey BC

Light lunch provided

Please Note: Donations of new sock, gloves and toques are gratefully accepted

#### **Regional Homeless Count 2017**

Planning has begun for the next regional homeless count on March 29, 2017. The previous federal government made a tri-annual homeless count a requirement of receiving federal homeless dollars through the Homeless partnering Strategy. The count is an enumeration of people who are living in shelters, on the street or couch surfing. The 2017 Homeless Count, as previous counts, has three main objectives:

1. To estimate the number of people who are homeless, including drawing upon existing data sources such as shelters, census, hospitals, jails, and housing data;
2. Obtain a demographic profile of people through the count survey; and
3. Identify long-term trends in the number and profile of people who are homeless.

All point-in-time counts (our count is completed on a single day) under-estimate the real number of people who are struggling with homelessness. However, for the last number of counts there has been concern in Surrey/White Rock and some of the other more rural suburban areas of a much larger than expected under count. Recognizing this, next year's count will have the additional objectives, different from previous counts including:

1. Estimate the extent of hidden homelessness based on existing data
2. Pilot a methodology specific to enumerating homelessness in rural and remote areas of Surrey; and
3. Pilot an enhanced methodology in the Surrey urban area

#### **Homeless Encampments**

Dignity Village is an officially recognized homeless encampment outside of Portland, Oregon since 2001. There is space for 60 people to live there. There is a waiting list maintain for vacancies as people move out. For information on Dignity Village see here:

<https://dignityvillage.org/>

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Seattle City Council began debate on a City ordinance which would provide more definition about where people could and could not set up camps on public spaces. As well the ordinance would spell out the City's responsibilities to provide alternate housing when clearing a camp site. No final decision has been as of yet. But it is an interesting policy choice to watch as we here in Metro Vancouver see an increasing number of people who cannot find housing or shelter space creating encampments. We will provide more information once a final decision is made. For more information see here:

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/seattle-city-council-gets-an-earful-as-it-weighs-protections-for-homeless-in-camp-evictions/>

Please give us your feedback on how to respond to this situation in Metro Vancouver.

**PH2H Challenge** – A local congregation has extended a challenge to the community to make a donation to PH2H for its operating budget of \$5,000. Donations will be matched up to \$2,500 for up to 4 years. Cheques would be made out to Sources (fund manager) for PH2H.

**Please circulate our newsletter to your congregations and members. Send feedback/news items to: [ph2htaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:ph2htaskforce@gmail.com)**