



# June 2015 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, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room White Rock Baptist Church, 1657-140<sup>th</sup> St. Surrey. Please circulate to contacts.***

### ***White Rock Official Community Plan***

White Rock City is reviewing and updating the Official Community Plan. Part of this process is a community survey build toward a vision for the City's future.

Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey – link here [www.whiterockcity.ca/imaginewhiterock](http://www.whiterockcity.ca/imaginewhiterock).

Response will be anonymous (not individually reported). On February 16<sup>th</sup> PH2H appeared before Council to speak on the Affordable Housing Strategy and by unanimous decision of Council was told it would be included in the OCP update process.

Question 18 reads: There are a variety of tools that the municipality can use to influence the design and appearance of the community. Please review the different options below and let us know the tools that are important to you (check all that apply):

- ☐ Prepare design guidelines to encourage sustainable technology
- ☐ Prepare design guidelines for commercial and institutional uses
- ☐ Reconsider regulations allowing larger homes
- ☐ Prepare design guidelines for higher density development
- ☐ Prepare design guidelines for infill residential development
- ☐ Advance the long-term process of moving utility wires underground
- ☐ Plan for urban agriculture and community gardens
- ☐ Link increases in density with the provision of community amenities by developers, such as public parking, public green space, etc.
- ☐ Other

***ACTION TO TAKE:*** When you get to 'Other' in Question #18 please mention housing, and tools that City Council can create and use to get affordable housing built: land banking, inclusionary zoning (when re-zoning approvals require inclusion of affordable housing units), rental conversion by-law, standards of maintenance by-laws, establishing an Affordable Housing Fund, etc.

### ***Future of Regional Homeless Counts***

In future the federal government wants to have local communities across Canada do homeless counts at

the same time in January. This is what happens in the USA currently for their federal funding dollars (and nowhere else). We've heard that Metro Vancouver Community Entity (where local federal funding is managed) has been informed that the CE must do at least 1 point in time homeless count during the current 5 year contract (2014 – 2019). This will probably be the 2017 regional homeless count. It's unclear whether the required count will be fully federally funded or not.

### ***Isobel Mackenzie BC Seniors Advocate Housing Report***

This report highlights significant research into the **affordability, appropriateness and availability** of housing for seniors across the **continuum from independent housing, to assisted living, to residential care**. The report looks at the needs of both **renters and homeowners**, making specific recommendations for improvement. Please tell us what you think of the recommendations.

<https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/>

### ***Homeless Partnering Strategy***

Sources Community Resources Society (SOURCES) tenancy and income support advocacy program, Essentials to Housing Support Services, has had its funding renewed through the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). Earlier this year, when it looked like funding would not be renewed, hundreds of local resident raised money through the Coldest Night of the Year to support homeless prevention services at SOURCESBC.

### ***Surrey seeks community input on-line***

Every time you complete a survey you'll be entered to win a prize in a monthly draw. Click on the link to get started. Members who join before December 31st, 2015 will be entered into a prize draw for a \$500 gift certificate toward an iPad Mini or other item:

[https://www.cityspeaks.ca/R.aspx?o=1cY\\_I\\_f07t&ps=A81rA1R52mW2wc6OC87iu5&fmb=1](https://www.cityspeaks.ca/R.aspx?o=1cY_I_f07t&ps=A81rA1R52mW2wc6OC87iu5&fmb=1)

***Support Challenge for PH2H*** – A local congregation has extended a challenge to the community to make a donation to PH2H for its modest 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)***