

Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014–2019

Community: *Prince George*

Region: *British Columbia*

The plan has been approved by Canada for implementation: October 21, 2014

Approved by the Community Advisory Board (CPAH): September 15, 2014

As this Designated Community's allocation is over \$200,000, it is required to commit at least 40% of its HPS allocation towards a Housing First approach starting April 1, 2016.

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Current Situation: Establishing your Baseline Data

Data

Please report on your current situation based on the following indicators. All CABs should review their progress annually against these indicators. This review will form part of the annual update. Note: Although this data is not required at this time, data for 2013 will be required as part of the first annual update.

1. Number of unique individuals who used an emergency homeless shelter in the twelve month period between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012	
2. Number of shelter users who were chronically homeless in 2012	
3. Number of shelter users who were episodically homelessness in 2012	
4. Number of homeless veterans who used an emergency homeless shelter in 2012.	
5. Estimated number of homeless veterans who were chronically or episodically homeless in 2012.	
6. Number of homeless individuals identified during the latest point in time count (if available)*	122
7. Date count was undertaken	June 13, 2014

* An agency point in time count resulted in 226 respondents. Of those, 122 indicated they had slept last night in one of the following - Outside/streets/parks, Someone else's place (family friend etc.), Abandoned building/car/truck, or Safe house/emergency shelter/transitional housing.

Readiness for Implementing Housing First

Please rate your community's readiness to implement Housing First based on the following questions. Each component of the scale has a rating of one to four with four demonstrating full implementation of the HPS HF model. Use this information

to decide where to focus your efforts in implementing your HF program. Because implementing Housing First may take some adjustments, communities will have the opportunity to rate progress annually and use the information to update priorities.

Note: Responses will only be used by ESDC to understand the selection of the HF priorities and activities. **There is no particular Housing First program in place in Prince George – all of these criterion specify a 'program'.*

Criterion	Community's Rating
<p>CORE PRINCIPLES</p> <p>Rapid Housing with Supports. Program directly helps participants locate and secure permanent housing as rapidly as possible and assists them with moving-in or re-housing if needed.</p> <p>Housing Choice. Program participants choose the location and other features of their housing.</p> <p>Separating housing provision from other services. Extent to which program participants are not required to demonstrate housing readiness.</p> <p>Integrated Housing. Extent to which housing tenure is assumed to be permanent housing with no actual or expected time limits, other than those defined under a standard lease or occupancy agreement.</p> <p>Tenancy Rights and Responsibilities. Extent to which program participants have legal rights to the unit.</p>	<p>-1-: Program expects participants to find their own housing and does not offer participants who have lost their housing a new housing unit.</p> <p>-1-: Participants have no choice in the location or other features of their housing and are assigned a unit without having a say in decorating and furnishing.</p> <p>-2-: Participants have access to housing only if they meet many readiness requirements.</p> <p>-1-: There are rigid time limits on the length of stay in housing or the housing is considered emergency.</p> <p>-1-: Participants have no written agreement specifying the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, have no legal recourse if asked to leave their housing and can keep housing only by meeting requirements for continued tenancy.</p>

Criterion	Community's Rating
<p>Reasonable Cost for Housing. Extent to which participants pay a reasonable amount of their income for housing costs and/or program has access to rent supplements or subsidized housing units.</p>	<p>-1-: Participants pay 61% or more of their income for housing costs and program does not have access to rent supplements.</p>
<p>Housing Support. Extent to which program offers services to help participants maintain housing, such as offering assistance with landlord relations and neighborhood orientation.</p>	<p>-1-: Program does not offer any housing support services.</p>
<p>SERVICE PHILOSOPHY</p>	
<p>Service choice. Extent to which program participants choose the type, sequence, and intensity of services such as recovery, medical and other services.</p>	<p>-1-: Services are prescribed by the service provider with no input from the participant.</p>
<p>Participant-Driven Program & Services. Extent to which the program and services are participant-driven.</p>	<p>-1-: Program does not offer any opportunities for participant input into services at any level.</p>
<p>Contact with Participants. Extent to which program maintains regular contact with participants.</p>	<p>-1-: Program has no contact with participants.</p>
<p>Continuous Services. Extent to which program participants are not discharged from services even if they lose housing.</p>	<p>-1-: Participants are discharged from program services if they lose housing for any reason.</p>
<p>Directly Offers or Brokers Services. Program directly offers or brokers support services to participants, such as recovery, medical and other services.</p>	<p>-1-: Program does not offer services to participants, either directly or through brokering.</p>
<p>Selection of Vulnerable Populations. Extent to which program focuses on chronic and/or episodically homeless individuals.</p>	<p>-1-: Program has no method to identify and select participants who are chronic and/or episodically homeless.</p>
<p>TEAM STRUCTURE/HUMAN RESOURCES</p>	
<p>Low Participant/Staff Ratio. Extent to which program consistently maintains a low participant/staff ratio.</p>	<p>-1-: 50 or more participants per 1 FTE staff.</p>

Community Advisory Board Membership

1. Name of the Community Advisory Board: Prince George Community Partners Addressing Homelessness

2. Number of members in your CAB: 36

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
Hemingway	Dawn	Assoc Professor and Chair, UNBC Social Work	- Other: Academic	Co-chair	Yes
Munoz	Debora		- Other: community member	Co-chair	Yes
Ens	Sam	Ketso Yoh / Prince George Native Friendship Centre	- Housing and social housing - Non-profit	Member	No
Froehlich	Shannon	Support Services Manager / Positive Living North	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment - Non-profit	Member	No
Goold	Bernie	St. Vincent de Paul Society	- Non-profit	Member	No
Hagreen	Alison	Prince George Brain Injured Group	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment - Non-profit	Member	No
Harrington	Jennifer	Director, Residential Resources / PGNFC	- Housing and social housing - Aboriginal	Member	No
Harrower	Ian	Ministry of Social Development and Innovation	- Income supports - Other: Provincial Government	Member	No
Hebert	Leo	Executive Director / PG Metis Housing Society	- Housing and social housing - Aboriginal	Member	No
Hughes	Wayne	Northern John Howard Society	- Non-profit	Member	No
Kapphahn	Nadine	Prince George Brain Injured Group	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment - Non-profit	Member	No

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
Krause	Murry	Executive Director / Central Interior Native Health	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment - Non-profit	Member	No
Arrowsmith	Tatyana	Resource Housing Coord / Canadian Mental Health Assoc	- Housing and social housing - Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment - Non-profit	Member	No
Lawrence	Michelle	Mental Health & Addictions Community Programs / Northern Health	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No
Leclair	Margaret	AWAC	- Housing and social housing - Non-profit	Member	No
Legate	Sari	Central Interior Native Health Society	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No
Nakamura	Diane	Executive Director, AWAC	- Housing and social housing - Non-profit	Member	No
Plante	Claudette	Manager, Elizabeth Fry Housing Society	- Housing and social housing - Non-profit	Member	No
Rennie	Sheila	Prince George Native Friendship Centre	- Housing and social housing - Aboriginal	Member	No
Robinson	Kay	Community Voice Mail / PGMHS	- Non-profit	Member	No
Row	Becky	Manager, Northern and Aboriginal Engagement / Canadian Red Cross	- Non-profit	Member	No
Ryan	Robert	Manager, Firepit Cultural Drop In / PLN	- Aboriginal - Non-profit	Member	No
Schwartz	Audrey	Executive Director / Active Support Against Poverty	- Housing and social housing - Non-profit	Member	No
Baragar	John		- People with lived experience	Member	No
Tohill	Malachy	Regional Director / BC Housing	- Housing and social housing - Other: Provincial Government	Member	No

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
West	Vanessa	Executive Director / Positive Living North	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment - Non-profit	Member	No
Brooke	Michele	United Way Northern BC	- Other: Community Entity	Ex-officio member	Yes
Zacharias	Anne	Senior Development Officer / Service Canada	- Other: Senior Development Officer	Ex-officio member	Yes
Pateman	Kerry	Coordinator	- Other: Coordinator	Ex-officio member	Yes
Florey	Lynn	Assistant Coordinator	- Other: Assistant Coordinator	Ex-officio member	Yes
Brown	Sara	Social Development Coord / City of Prince George	- Other: municipal government	Member	No
Coon	Patrick	Carrier Sekani Family Services	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Croome	Barbara	Mustard Seed	- Non-profit	Member	No
Davis	Maureen	Canadian Mental Health Assoc	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No
Doucette	Nicole	PGNAETA	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Dyck	Johnathon	Northern Health	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No

3. Given the requirement to allocate funding to the Housing First approach, which involves both housing and individual supports, are there any sectors or organizations the CAB needs to include and/or engage in the future to more fully represent your community? (for example, Provincial or Territorial representatives responsible for housing and/or mental health, landlord organizations, people with lived experience, police, corrections, health and health promotions (including the Health Authority), income supports, other funders, addictions treatment)

Yes

Please identify the sectors or organizations and describe how they will be engaged.

There is a need to seek more involvement from the private sector including landlord organizations; these could be engaged through direct business organization presentations such as the Chamber of Commerce, as well as personal invitations to the meetings and committee. There is also a need to involve more individuals with lived experience. This could be done through focus group discussions specifically for this sector and conducted in familiar settings. This would encourage self-advocacy and be a successful way to educate the community. It has also been noted that the CAB would benefit from more involvement by the police and corrections sector. This sector could be engaged through invitations directly to these agencies.

Planning and Reporting

Your Planning Process

1. Stakeholder Engagement

- a. **Who and how did the CAB consult in your community as you prepared this Community Plan? Please include information about the approach you took and the extent of your consultations.**

Several formats of community engagement and consultation took place: A separate task force was established that helped to guide the planning process; A Community Forum was held which was open to all agencies and providers in the community, along with any other interested or involved community members. This forum described the Service Canada Housing First initiative and invited attendees to participate in a World Café style workshop. There were facilitated table discussions of each of the five HPS priority areas.

Participants were asked the following questions:

1. What activities (that meet this priority) do we already have in the community?
2. Is it (are they) meeting the need?
3. What is missing?

Comments were made based each participant's perspective. Participants were then asked to vote on what priority activities were needed in the community. Each participant was provided a maximum of 12 sticky dots to post. An online survey was set up for those unable to attend the forum; and Multiple CAB meetings and discussions; All activities were designed to achieve maximum input from multiple levels and perspectives and achieve transparency. Also, we do have monthly CAB meetings. All members bring to the table the work they do in other community settings and CPAH representation is often requested on government committees. For instance, the City of Prince George Select Committee on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. CPAH is at that table.

- b. **How is the CAB working with the Aboriginal sector and/or local Aboriginal CAB to identify and implement Aboriginal homelessness priorities?**

The Aboriginal sector is well represented at the Prince George Community Partners Addressing Homelessness (CPAH) (the CAB) table. The CE for the

Prince George Aboriginal CAB also holds an ongoing seat on CPAH and is a member of the steering committee.

4. Other Related Strategies and Programs

- a. In this section, you will identify and describe the federal, provincial, territorial, or local strategies, programs (other than HPS) which fund activities in your community that you will access to support your Housing First and other homelessness effort.**

How many have you identified? 2

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
BC Housing Provincial Homelessness Initiative and BC Housing Homeless Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Rent supplements - Mental health - Addictions
Homeless Intervention Project (HIP) under Ministry of Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Rent supplements - Mental health - Addictions - Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team - Income supports - Social integration

- b. Does your Province or Territory have a plan or strategic direction to address homelessness, poverty, housing, or another related issue?**

Yes

How does your HPS Community Plan complement Provincial or Territorial direction in this area?

Partially aligns

Please explain.

Many ministries and local agencies provide services and housing for those homeless or at risk of homelessness. When funding allows, our community attempts to address gaps that we see in the systems or services. Part of our

HF strategy is to connect with and strengthen partnerships with provincial strategies.

Two provincial strategies are identified:

- BC Housing plays a significant role in addressing homelessness in our community. BC Housing supports 91 shelter beds, 139 units of supportive housing, and transitional housing, housing for seniors, persons with disabilities or accessibility needs, and those with low income. They also provide rental assistance. The provision of this housing is key to addressing poverty and homelessness. It is possible that BC Housing can assist with the identification and tracking of chronic and episodic homeless individuals, as required in the Plan.
- The Homelessness Intervention Project (HIP) was launched in March 2009 in 5 BC communities in response to a frustration that agencies were independently developing outreach programs to address homelessness. The strategy includes integrated, cross-agency teams that find housing and support services for chronically homeless people through coordinating resources, data, policy, & client information. This approach requires collaboration with provincial agencies and community organizations. The integrated team and data gathering can be integral to implementing HF.

c. The Housing First approach requires access to a range of client supports. How will you engage (or how are you engaging) provincial or territorial programs to facilitate access to provincial/territorial services for Housing First clients?

Part of our Housing First strategy is to connect with and strengthen partnerships with provincial strategies.

3. Community Contribution

As part of the eligibility for HPS Designated Community funding, each community must be able to demonstrate that it has mobilized funding partners to contribute to its homelessness efforts.

- Your community must show that it can identify \$1 contributing to your homelessness efforts from other sources for every dollar in your Designated Community allocation.
 - The community contribution can include funding from any partner other than HPS such as: governments (Federal, Provincial/Territorial or Municipal/Regional); public institutions, such as hospitals, schools or universities; aboriginal organizations; private sector organizations; and not-for-profit/charitable sector organizations, such as foundations or the United Way.
 - If an organization is contributing (financial or in-kind) to more than one activity, you may combine all the amounts received and enter the information once.
- The Community Entity (CE) will be required to report annually on the actual amount received.

You will be asked to provide this information during the annual update. At this time, we need information about your community contribution for 2014-2015.

a. How many funders have you identified? 3

Name of Funder	Type of Funder	Contact Information		Financial Contribution (dollars)	Non-Financial Contribution (Estimate in Dollars)	Total Contribution (Dollars)
		Contact Person	(E-mail or Phone Number)			
BC Housing	Province/Territory	Malachy Tohill	250-562-9251	4,852,000	0	4,852,000

Name of Funder	Type of Funder	Contact Information		Financial Contribution (dollars)	Non-Financial Contribution (Estimate in Dollars)	Total Contribution (Dollars)
		Contact Person	(E-mail or Phone Number)			
United Way of Northern BC	Not for profit/Charity	Trevor Williams	250-561-1040	173,500	7,853	181,353
Homeless Intervention Project (Ministry of Social Development)	Province/Territory	Ian Harrower	250-645-3906	25,000	0	25,000
Total Community Contribution (dollars)						\$5,058,353
HPS Designated Communities Funding Stream allocation (dollars)						\$335,158

Reporting

The Community Advisory Board is expected to report to its funder (Employment and Social Development Canada), its stakeholders and the broader community on what it is doing and the progress the community is making in reducing homelessness.

The HPS was renewed with a commitment to using a Housing First approach and demonstrate reductions in homelessness. The collection of data and results will be critical to this change. As part of your community planning process, you will set priorities and select activities. Projects should lead to results that contribute to reductions in homelessness. The HPS has identified specific results that it will be collecting through Results Reporting, but the CAB and CE should also be working together to identify other results they would like to gather.

Your Priorities

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
To reduce homelessness through a Housing First (HF) approach*	5% DC	40% DC	40% DC	40% DC	40% DC	% of HF Funds by activity selected (Related to 2014-2015 only) ● 100%: HF Readiness ‡	
To improve the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and those at imminent risk of homelessness through individualized services †	88% DC	30% DC	30% DC	30% DC	30% DC	Housing Placement (outside of Housing First)	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
						Pre-employment support and bridging to the labour market	25 people will increase their employment stability or will start part-time or full-time employment. 6 people will start a job training program.
						Life skills development (e.g. budgeting, cooking)	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014 -2015	2015 -2016	2016 -2017	2017 -2018	2018 -2019		
						Housing loss prevention (only for individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness)	30 people will remain housed at three months after receiving a housing loss prevention intervention.
						Liaise and refer to appropriate resources	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
						Basic or urgent needs services	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
To preserve or increase the capacity of facilities used to address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.	0 % DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014 -2015	2015 -2016	2016 -2017	2017 -2018	2018 -2019		
To ensure coordination of resources and leveraging	5% DC	15% DC	15% DC	15% DC	15% DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determining a model in support of a broader systematic approach to addressing homelessness - Partnership and development in support of systems approach to homelessness - Working with the housing sector to identify opportunities for and barriers to permanent housing (e.g. establishing landlord relationships, mapping of current available assets) in support of a broader systematic approach to addressing homelessness - Consultation, coordination, planning, and assessment (e.g. community planning) 	The HPS has not asked for targets related to these activities.

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014 -2015	2015 -2016	2016 -2017	2017 -2018	2018 -2019		
To improve data collection and use	2% DC	15% DC	15% DC	15% DC	15% DC	- Identifying the size and make-up of the entire homeless population - Tracking non-Housing First clients - Point-in-time counts - Community indicators (beyond the requirements for HPS) - Information collection and sharing (including implementing and using HIFIS)	The HPS has not asked for targets related to these activities.

Notes:

- * **The Housing First model includes both housing and access to supports primarily for chronically and episodically homeless individuals. The services provided are offered through an integrated approach and are interdependent. Generally, the approach will be to ensure that Housing First clients have access to all the existing services required.**
- ‡ **Housing First readiness activities include:**
 - **Determining the Housing First model (e.g. consultation, coordination, planning, and assessment)**
 - **Identifying, integrating and improving services (including staff training on Housing First activities and functions)**
 - **Partnership development in support of a Housing First approach**

- **Working with the housing sector to identify opportunities for and barriers to permanent housing (e.g. establishing landlord relationships, mapping of current available assets)**
- † **These services are offered primarily to individuals who are homeless or imminently at risk that are not part of the Housing First program.**

Results

With renewal, the HPS is increasing the focus on achieving results. All projects are expected to contribute to reducing or preventing homelessness and CABs and CEs should be working together to determine how they will measure project success. The HPS has identified a number of indicators it will be using to measure the success of the HPS at reducing and preventing homelessness.

Description of your Priorities

Housing First (HF) Priority

Rationale

Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.

As the mandated rationale received from Service Canada, we agree with the Housing First vision while recognizing that Prince George has never been able to secure the necessary funds to achieve significant improvement in homelessness. It remains an ongoing effort to maintain basic human necessities to prevent increase in the homeless population. There are great services in the community and the Housing First efforts will need to be dedicated to increasing partnerships, liaison to existing services and coordination.

What other resources can you leverage to contribute to your HF efforts?

- **HF Readiness**
There are no resources existing to effectively leverage new contributions. We recognize the need to improve this data and information.
- **Client Intake & Assessment**
There are no resources existing to effectively leverage new contributions. We recognize the need to improve this data and information.
- **Connecting to and Maintaining Permanent Housing**
There are no resources existing to effectively leverage new contributions. We recognize the need to improve this data and information.
- **Accessing Services**
There are no resources existing to effectively leverage new contributions. We recognize the need to improve this data and information.
- **Data, Tracking & Monitoring**
There are no resources existing to effectively leverage new contributions. We recognize the need to improve this data and information.

Description of the Housing First (HF) Approach

Please describe your Housing First approach, identify what percentage of your allocation will be used towards furnishing and repairing housing for HF purposes and provide a timeline for HF implementation.

Our Housing First approach includes determining the opportunities in the community to collaborate with those ministries and agencies offering existing supports and services, and housing. Our access to funding necessary to develop new, additional housing stock is limited. Therefore, our focus must be on ensuring we do not lose any current housing stock. We have not identified any portion of funds towards capital for Housing First purposes and in future years any capital Housing First funds would be dedicated to furnishings or upgrades. For the first two years, this community will be using the Housing First allocation for Housing First readiness. The following target group question makes an assumption that this data is currently available, which is not the case for our community. Within the mandates of Service Canada, we would make every effort to address these sectors.

Target Group(s)

Please describe in more detail the group(s) this priority will address.

- Chronically homeless individuals

Individualized Services Priority

Rationale

Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.

This is a priority for our community as this strategy is the only effective means of preventing an increase in homelessness. Data available from consistent Point of Time Counts, along with several extended homeless count activities, clearly indicate that we have been successful in maintaining a status quo of not increasing the homeless population.

Target Group(s) within the homeless and at imminent risk of homelessness populations

Please describe in more detail the group(s) this priority will address.

- General population

Coordination of Resources and Leveraging Priority

Rationale

Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.

This is a priority for our community as coordination of resources and leveraging are the only effective way that HF will be able to be implemented in this community. The HPS funds are not sufficient to launch a specific Housing First program without community collaboration and partnering. Ongoing community planning is required as part of the HPS Housing First strategy and will be integral to implementing Housing First.

Data Collection and Use Priority

Rationale

Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.

This is a priority for our community as the collection of data will be integral to implementing Housing First.