

## Position Statement – City’s Role in Health and Housing

The City of Nanaimo believes that our community can be one where everyone is home and belongs. This means that the municipality can play an integral role in advancing solutions to complex social challenges, including homelessness.

Currently, the City’s role in responding to homelessness falls broadly within four categories:

**Working with our development community to encourage all forms of housing.** Appropriate and diverse housing stock provides opportunities for residents to transition through the housing continuum. Along with developers, this function also includes working closely with BC Housing and local housing providers to realize all opportunities available to our community.

**Facilitator and convener in the housing and community supports ecosystem.** The City is well positioned to be the convener of agencies and organizations devoted to preventing and ending homelessness. In this role, the City directly participates in problem solving and acts as a clearing house for research and funding opportunities. In this capacity, the City will support and participate in the development of evidence-led solutions to improve Nanaimo for diverse stakeholder groups.

**Enhancing communication and engagement in social issues.** The City will work with diverse stakeholders to support housing solutions, including facilitation of positive dialogue on homelessness. The City will work with partners to profile solutions and progress, as well as emerging trends relating to social challenges to enhance a coordinated response.

**Advocacy to higher levels of government.** The City will communicate Nanaimo’s needs and advocate for appropriate resources to higher levels of government at the annual AVICC and UBCM conventions, as well as through regular email, phone and in person meetings. Advocacy messaging will be clear, consistent, and data-driven.

The City is currently engaged in a collaborative process with community and government partners to determine priorities in addressing homelessness in Nanaimo, identify evidence-based solutions and define clear accountabilities for implementation. This process will further refine the City’s role and those of other levels of government, the private sector and community groups.