



NANAIMO:

BUILDING A PATH FORWARD

TASK FORCE

Nanaimo Health & Housing Action Plan

Sep 2, 2020

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.



DRAFT Nanaimo Health & Housing Action Plan (HHAP)

**FOR COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK & VALIDATION**



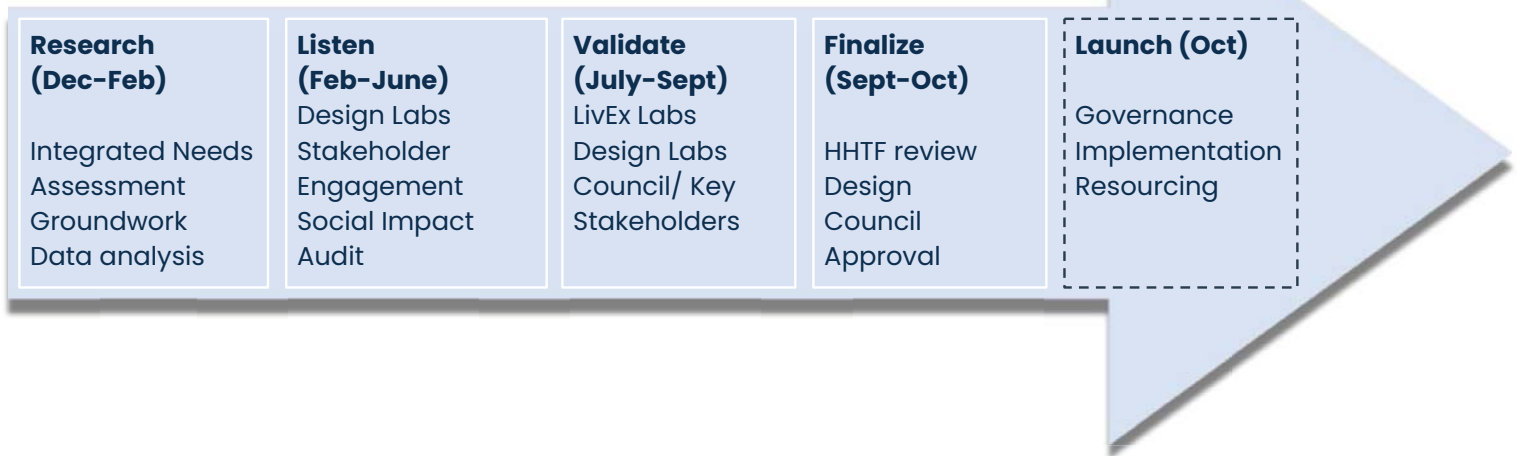
BACKGROUND

- Nanaimo is committed to action that ensures everyone's health & housing needs are met to enable a vibrant & inclusive community;
- City Council kick-started a community-based process via Task Force to develop a **blueprint for action for the next five years unique to Nanaimo**
- All stakeholders are needed in a **systems change** effort aimed at addressing the **root causes** as well as symptoms related to current health and housing issues

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

5

TIMELINE OF APPROACH & CONSULTATIONS



INTEGRATED NEEDS ASSESSMENT

WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US?



NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

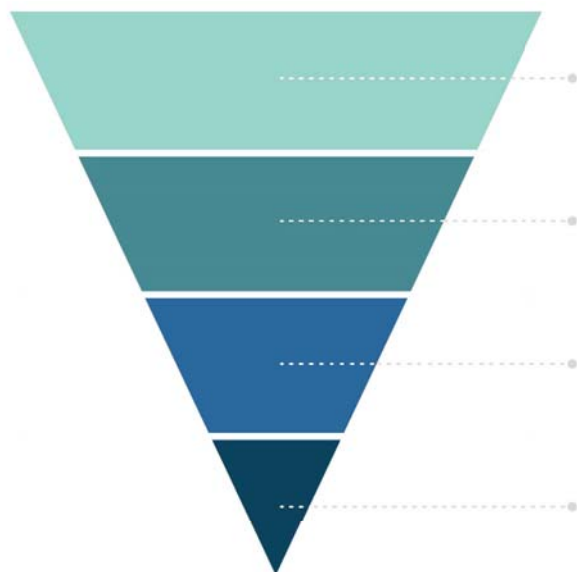
PRIMARY SOCIAL/HEALTH/HOUSING ISSUES

- A growing community = urbanisation pressures
- More seniors
- Poverty and deprivation
- Housing unaffordability
- Renters are struggling
- Food insecurity rates are highest on the island
- Rates of core housing need are increasing
- Homelessness is increasing
- Early Childhood Development indicates higher vulnerabilities
- High school completion below provincial average
- More lone parents
- Lower life expectancy in the LHN
- The Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) alcohol and smoking-related deaths are higher than the provincial average
- Opioid and Methamphetamine use
- Demands for police are up
- Domestic violence continues to be a community concern

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- Seniors
- Vulnerable seniors
- Lone parents, singles, seniors living alone
- Renters
- Low income households
- Indigenous peoples
- Newcomers
- Youth
- LGBTQ2S+
- People with disabilities, health issues
- Those facing mental health, addictions
- At-risk student (homeless/precariouly housed, pregnancy, health and financial issues, domestic violence)

IMMEDIATE DEMAND ESTIMATES



6,000
AT RISK - HOUSING INSTABILITY

1,525
TRANSITIONALLY HOMELESS

179
EPISODICALLY HOMELESS

90
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

NOTE:
Point-in-Time -
March 2020 - 425
(one day)

VS Annual Flow
estimated at 1,794
(one year)

1,794
Homeless

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WHAT DID THE COMMUNITY TELL US?

9 Design Labs - 200 participants

Stakeholder discussions: Task Force, Coalition & key community partners

Lived Experience Cafes

Validation Labs



Community Engagement

LiveEx

Hidden Homeless
Brain Injury
Physical Abilities & Accessibility
Racialized/Multicultural Youth
Racialized/Multicultural Adults
Seniors & Housing Loss
Families
Food Security
Homelessness
Women
LGBTQ2+

Stakeholder

Faith/Religion
Volunteer
Accessibility & Inclusiveness
Domestic Violence & gender
Food Security
Homelessness
Systems Coordination
Filling Gaps in the Housing
Continuum

Outstanding

On-Reserve Indigenous
Off-Reserve Indigenous
Youth Homelessness

Funders
Systems Coordination

LAB GOALS

11

- **Validate** the direction of the draft plan
- **Generate** ideas from the community
- **Ensure** the HHAP is well-coordinated, human-centered, and embraced by the community
- **Listen** to stakeholders & people with lived/living experience

BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FROM WHAT WE HEARD

Together, not against.

Holistic, not siloed.

Systems change, not one-offs.

Root causes, not just symptoms.

Coordinated, not status quo.

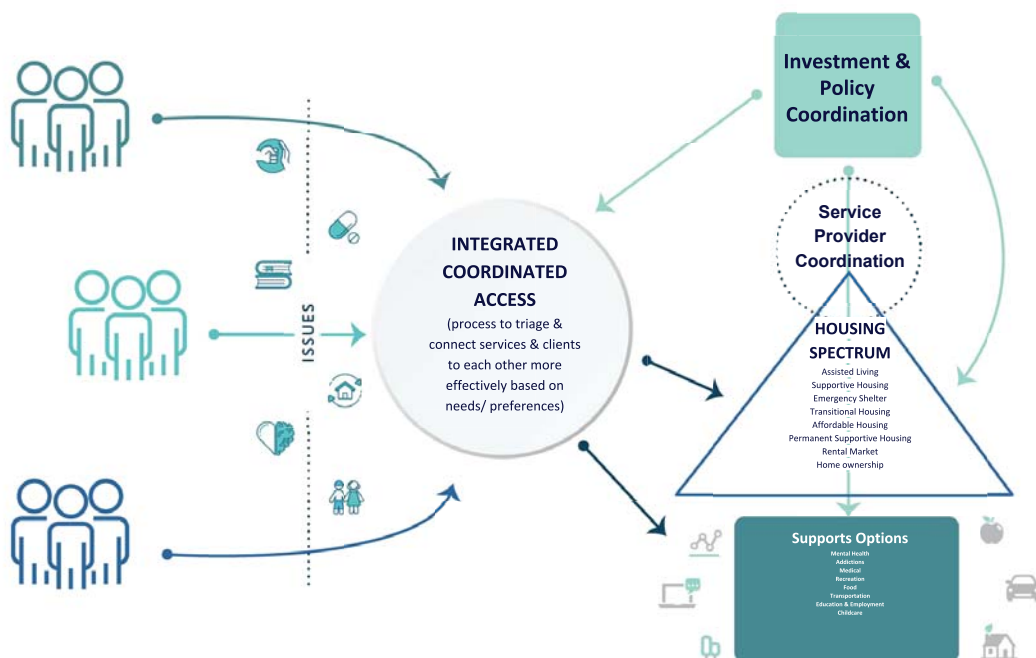
Action, not consultation.

Shared accountability, not sole responsibility.

Leadership, not management.



BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH



HEALTH & HOUSING ECOSYSTEM

The Action Plan proposes the coordination of a Health & Housing Ecosystem in Nanaimo. Using the ocean ecosystem analogy, it conveys the idea that all parts must work together in order for everything to thrive. The fish represent the various support and housing options, and their species are the sectors. The plastic pollution is causing issues for all these species, and the funders are providing the needed nutrition. *Connecting all of this are the waters that encompass this ecosystem, which represent our coordination efforts including systems planning, funding coordination, Integrated Coordinated Access, information sharing, etc.*



SERVICE PROVIDERS

The service providers are represented by the big fish in the sea, they manage the supports.

EX: EMERGENCY SHELTERS, RENTAL MARKET, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SUPPORT OPTIONS

The fish within the ocean represent the various supports available, with the different species representing the various sectors of supports.

EX: HOUSING, MENTAL HEALTH, JUSTICE, EDUCATION

FUNDERS

The plant life represents the funders, those who are providing much needed nutrition and fuel for the whole ecosystem.

EX: BCH, VIHA, Federal, UW

ISSUES

The plastic pollution represents the issues/barriers that are causing destruction to people's ability to thrive within the ecosystem.

EX: TRANSPORTATION, DISABILITY, ADDICTIONS

Emerging Plan Priorities & Actions



PLAN COMMITMENTS

Truth and Reconciliation

Challenging Discrimination and Stigma

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Ecosystem Coordination
2. Leadership & Engagement
3. Prevention
4. Complex needs capability
5. Poverty Reduction
6. Diverse Housing Options

PRIORITY 1 : *ECOSYSTEM COORDINATION*

1. Develop **community-based governance model** for the implementation of the Action Plan & coordination of the Health & Housing Ecosystem inclusive of City, Snuneymuxw, BCH, IH, revised Coalition and UW.
2. Advance systems planning efforts through a designated lead **Systems Planner Organization**.
3. Support & resource **dedicated staff** to coordinate Plan activities.
4. Develop & implement a community-wide **integrated data management strategy** to drive Plan progress.
5. Advance an Integrated Funding Model in partnership with core funders to support common priorities through the creation of a **Funders Table** to maximize resources and impact.
6. Support **service provider coordination** efforts through the revised Homelessness Coalition to oversee ICA, Capacity Building, & Complex Needs Action Tables.
7. Support continuous improvement & **innovation** activities across the ecosystem.

PRIORITY 2: *LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT*

1. **Awareness** on homelessness prevention, interpersonal violence, etc. for all.
2. Increase community **engagement** in HHAP activities.
3. Faith community to develop coordinated **Interfaith Action Council**.
4. Support the City to a provincial and federal **advocacy strategy** to support Plan.
5. Track implementation using **real-time** data and monitoring.
6. Communicate Plan goals and progress through **ongoing engagement**.
7. Support the active role of those with **lived experience** In Plan activities and governance.
8. Develop community engagement & **public education** activities to support Plan priorities.
9. Support community activities to enhance **wellbeing and belonging**.

PRIORITY 3: *PREVENTION*

1. Increase **awareness** about how to access services for diverse populations. DL
2. Continue to advance **online systems map** as early intervention, screening and systems navigation using HelpSeeker.
3. Develop and support a **holistic and integrated health and housing spectrum** for wrap-around supports across diverse needs that is person-centred across the prevention continuum.
4. Implement **Integrated Coordinated Access** with enhanced and targeted access for Indigenous people, seniors, families and youth.
5. Digital service navigation & **Systems Navigators**
6. **Community hub/resource centre/wellness site for Integrated Coordinated Access:** explore libraries, community centres, and recreation facilities as sites of navigation.
7. Leverage **schools & education partners** as navigators & early intervention.
8. Support **brain development and trauma** learning with parents/ caregivers.

PRIORITY 4 : *COMPLEX NEEDS CAPABILITY*

1. Support a whole-of-ecosystem to enhance **complex needs capability** that ensures consistent practices across services and improve outcomes for clients with complex needs, including intergenerational trauma, homelessness, mental health, substance misuse, systems involvement, poverty and discrimination.
2. Operate the **Complex Needs Action Tables** to support vulnerable people with specific attention to those experiencing homelessness, exploitation and/or violence, vulnerable seniors, youth, mental health and addictions.
3. Create and resource **Health & Housing Intervention Teams** to intervene with complex needs, vulnerable clients immediately.
4. Create an 'Opportunity Centre' bringing together diverse key services for the complex needs group along with basic services (showers, food, etc.). It acts as a entry point into the coordinated system: where assessment, intervention can start. Indigenous cultural supports are embedded, trauma -informed, person centred.
5. Ensure access to the most **basic human needs**: clean water, toilets, safe, low barrier spaces
6. Leverage **peer networks** to support vulnerable community members as trained Navigators & natural supports.
7. Develop **mechanisms to assess/ communicate** the Complex Needs Capabilities of diverse services, and systems to support continuous improvement.
8. Support Community **Safety Measures**
9. **Service integration** and coordination with Health, child intervention, and justice to support client goals
10. Community **Drug Strategy** Implementation
11. Explore **Restorative Justice** models

PRIORITY 5 : *POVERTY REDUCTION*

1. Develop **poverty reduction** strategy.
2. Advocate for policy changes in social assistance, minimum, employment standards, levying of taxes, and tax credit delivery for **income security**.
3. Enhance programs to support citizens with obtaining financial and other benefits they are entitled to, financial literacy education, and encourage businesses to provide a **Living Wage**.
4. Evaluate **transportation** access measures.
5. Increase **financial, employment & training** supports.
6. Support community **economic development**.
7. **Social purpose & social enterprise** support.
8. Explore a **Social Innovation Fund** to advance creative solutions in the ecosystem.
9. Advance **food security measures** to support healthy lifestyles, reduce waste and promote sustainable livelihoods and ecosystems.

PRIORITY 6 : *DIVERSE HOUSING OPTIONS*

1. Encourage the City's ongoing implementation of 2018 Affordable Housing Strategy actions for **incentives and enablers** to facilitate affordable housing.
2. Explore opportunities for PSH, **detox treatment** and transitional housing.
3. Encourage provincial investment in **supportive housing** to meet Plan goals with Island Health, BC Housing, private sector and service provider partners.
4. Advance **homeownership grants/supports** for low income households.
5. Track the **affordable housing pipeline** using technology in real time to enable reporting and public accountability.
6. Explore a **Community Investment Campaign** to drive capital and coordinated builds/investments with community, government and private sector partners.
7. Expand **rent supplement** programs for market units.
8. Establish a formal and informal **landlord engagement strategy**.

COMMITMENT 1 : *TRUTH & RECONCILIATION*

1. **Education** and awareness on Indigenous history and colonialism & connection to social, economic well being disparities among Indigenous people caused by part/current colonial/racist practices.
2. Use **TRC Calls to Action** for decision-making in Plan implementation.
3. **Support local capacity** for Indigenous-led housing and social supports services in partnership with Snuneymuxw First Nation.
4. Explore the potential of an **Indigenous Cultural & Healing Centre** to support off-reserve Indigenous people.
5. Work with Snuneymuxw and Nanaimo Indigenous organizations to develop and rollout **cultural and healing practices** across services and housing programs.
6. Advance and resource **anti-racism & Indigenous culture training** for ecosystem social/housing service providers.
7. Support Indigenous **self-determination** in all funding decisions.
8. Ensure a minimum of 30% **Indigenous representation** on Plan governance and coordination tables.
9. Develop Integrated Coordinated Access with **Indigenous access points, staff** and culturally appropriate assessment.
10. Support programming to address **intergenerational trauma**.
11. **Educate and encourage landlords** to rent to Indigenous people and support cultural practices.

COMMITMENT 2: *CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION & STIGMA*

1. Develop innovative community engagement and public education strategies and campaigns aimed at promoting understanding regarding **mental health, substance use, crime and safety, racism, and discrimination**.
2. **Removing stigma** and changing negative public perceptions towards those with lived experience of homelessness.
3. **Tailored** service navigation should be available and accessible to diverse groups.
4. **Trauma-informed** and culturally appropriate engagement.

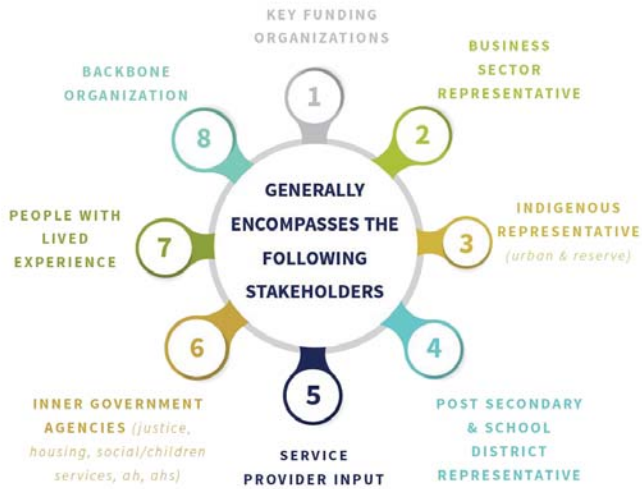
IMPLEMENTATION & GOVERNANCE

What's your role?
Who needs to be involved?



COMMUNITY-BASED GOVERNANCE

Stewardship Group



Systems Planner Organization

