

Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting Presentation

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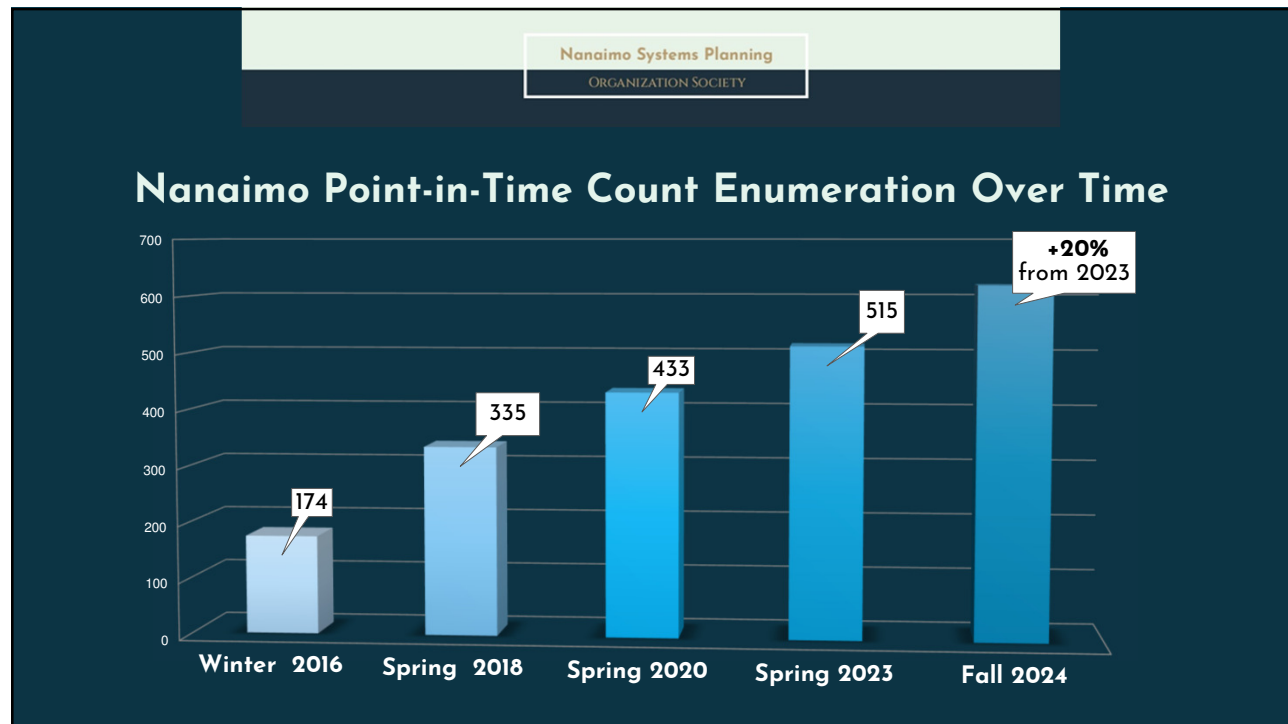
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Achieving 'functional zero' is the goal

= this means, Nanaimo's goal is to drive that number down toward zero, and is keeping it below the community's capacity to ensure positive exits from homelessness

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Nanaimo Systems Planning
ORGANIZATION SOCIETY

Community Needs:

- Additional homelessness drop-in hubs
- Additional rental supports (subsidies, rent bank, etc.)***
- Reactivation of programming to provide survival supplies and system navigation
- Additional emergency shelter, transitional, and supportive housing resources.

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Additional Emergency Shelter Resources

- 2024 Point-in-Time Count: 600+
- Current Emergency Shelter beds:
63 Permanent Year-Round (BC Housing Funded)
84 Temporary Winter (2024-25)
- About 60% of individuals who have been homeless for 6 months or more utilize emergency shelters
- We need 200+ additional permanent year-round shelter beds today

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Provide Survival Supplies and Navigation

- Previously provided by CMHA - Mid-Island 'Out Shop' Program 2021 - 2024
- Provided tents, sleeping bags, and other survival supplies
- First point of contact with services for many individuals entering homelessness
- 1065 unique individuals accessed the program over 4 years

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How to Better Support Unsheltered Individuals in Nanaimo

- Greater Access to and Coordination of Data Sharing
- Expand and invest in Nanaimo Community Wide Outreach Teams
- Deploy CHIA (GIS) for better street level service coordination
- Work with Governments to Adapt Building Code(s) for Emergency Shelter Spaces/Rapid Re-Housing
- Address challenges with staffing across the sector to ensure capacity: Keep and attract

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Pre-emptive Actions:

- Prepare for federal government's ambitious plan for housing
- Expand proactive responses to housing precarity (rent bank)
- City tangible support to develop nonmarket housing
- More supervised use locations means less concentration of populations, less need for EMS, safer supply, less needles on streets/parks, etc.

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Take the Initiative Locally:

- Act proactively locally and invite our provincial and federal counterparts to match our spending
- Cooperation between Vancouver Island communities
- Better utilization of appropriate/under-utilized buildings
- Commit to a 10-year plan to develop non-market housing that leverages local public and private, other levels of government

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Address Inflows:

- Identify and slow the rate of entry into homelessness --
- Regional coordination on Vancouver Island

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