

Nanaimo Systems Planning  
ORGANIZATION SOCIETY

FALL ACTIVITY REPORT TO  
NANAIMO CITY COUNCIL

HOMELESSNESS  
EMERGENCY SHELTER  
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING  
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING  
COMMUNITY HOUSING  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
MARKET HOUSING

October  
2025

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Reason for Being

The HHAP supports a **Systems Planning Organization** to help optimize a current approach and maximize return on investment.

The SPO's primary focus is on the resources to meet the housing needs of for housing: seniors, Indigenous peoples, people with diverse abilities, families, dealing with mental health and addiction issues, veterans and young adults.

Nanaimo SPO  
Society

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## 'Functional Zero' Is The Goal

= To drive that number down toward zero, and keep it below the community's capacity to ensure positive exits from homelessness

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Society

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## Mandate

Recognize the collective value of multiple sectors and organizations working together with a common goal to build strong relationships, develop a well-resourced and high-functioning sector and to address homelessness:

- ▶ Research, data, analysis, education and information related to the community's collective homelessness prevention and response priorities
- ▶ Convene transparent leadership in support of the entire community for housing and homelessness
- ▶ Coordinate a systems approach to homelessness planning that connects the sectors together through information and analysis about funding and resources, client service needs, and shared accountability measures to advance strategic outcomes
- ▶ Identify, communicate and coordinate approaches to deal with system gaps, priorities and opportunities.

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# Current Projects

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# Esri Canada 2025 App Challenge

- ▶ NSPO chosen as the non-profit organization in Canada for the ESRI Canada 2025 App Challenge
- ▶ Teams from ESRI Canada developed eight unique apps within the ArcGIS platform to empower the work of the NSPO and the community organizations that we work with.
- ▶ Apps serve various functions including up to date emergency shelter use tracking, Point-in-Time Count surveying tools, and siting tools for supportive housing and emergency shelter locations
- ▶ NSPO will then make these apps available to community organizations to aid in their field work with clients in the community

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## Housing Development Services

Development services for community organization-owned lands that can support housing development

- ▶ **Target:** 100 Units of additional non-market housing and shelter per year
- ▶ **Activities:** assist community agencies, churches, associations with the entire chain of land development – in a support role – including organizational, visioning, land acquisition, development applications and partnerships in a support role that helps a project to progress from dreams-to-keys.

### 10-Year Prospective Total:

- ▶ 1,500 units of non-market and deeply affordable rental stock



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## SPO Challenge: No Carrots, No Sticks

- ▶ SPO was added to the community of practice in 2021 but without the tools to motivate the participation of individual agencies
- ▶ This is ground zero of the challenges the SPO has faced for 3 years

### RECOMMENDATION:

- ▶ City to be like most other communities in Canada/BC and be the impartial administrator of community-directed federal and provincial housing funding
- ▶ All challenges with individual agencies is resolved if an SPO is part of the decision-making process that the City has/could have about funding housing programs



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# Opportunity: Protecting Affordable Rental Stock

- ▶ SPO is working with Private Sector/Community Sector Partnerships on securing affordable rental properties that levels of government are not designed to do.
- ▶ Community partners have some, but not enough financial resources to purchase on their own.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- ▶ City to consider taking a financial position in this tripartite partnership to secure and protect affordable rental local stock
- ▶ Community organizations are minority partners or to lease holders of properties and act as property managers and tenant support.

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# Take the Initiative Locally



ACT PROACTIVELY LOCALLY AND INVITE OUR PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL COUNTERPARTS TO MATCH OUR LOCAL COMMITMENTS



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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Thank You

Nanaimo Specific Resources on Housing and Homelessness

[www.NanaimoSPO.com](http://www.NanaimoSPO.com)