

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed July 18, 2018

### Third session planned for Public Engagement Pilot Program

#### Summary

The third session is set for the Public Engagement Pilot Program and will take place on Saturday, July 28, 2018 in the Oliver Woods Community Centre. Titled "Homelessness: how do we increase understanding and move towards action?," this session will focus on problem solving through working together. Facilitated by Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, the session will begin with a panel of speakers from the community who will bring their perspective on homelessness. Following that, attendees, members from Council and members of the Community Engagement Task Force will collaborate towards solving the problem, "How do we increase understanding and move towards action?".

Space is limited so residents planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Monday, July 23, 2018 to [PublicEngagement@nanaimo.ca](mailto:PublicEngagement@nanaimo.ca) or 250-755-4460 ext. 4265. To find resources and materials to prepare for this session, please see the link in the online version of this news release or visit the Public Engagement Pilot Program page at [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/engagement](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/engagement).

*Strategic Link:* Supporting community engagement "Taking Responsibility to be an Excellent Municipal Government"

#### Key Points

- The session will take place on Saturday, July 28 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm (lunch will be provided) in the Oliver Woods Community Centre. Space is limited, please RSVP by Monday, July 23, 2018 to [PublicEngagement@nanaimo.ca](mailto:PublicEngagement@nanaimo.ca) or 250-755-4460 ext. 4265.
- The goal of this session is to connect citizens with Council in a collaborative way and work together towards an issue of importance to Nanaimo.
- Part of this session will be livecast on the City's Facebook page ([facebook.com/CityofNanaimo](https://facebook.com/CityofNanaimo)) so residents can attend online.

#### Quotes

"The Community Engagement Task Force is looking forward to bringing together front line service providers, those with lived experience, business owners and community members to think about the complex and challenging issue of homelessness in Nanaimo. Unlike the previous two engagement sessions, this event has been designed to move us from dialogue towards action, encouraging participants to think about our individual as well as our collective reactions and responses to this crisis."

Erin Hemmens  
Member  
Community Engagement Task Force

#### Quick Facts

- In June 2018, the public was asked what topic they would like to explore during this engagement session and homelessness was the most submitted.
- The Community Engagement Task Force is a result of a Council motion made to set up an "ad-hoc committee" to develop a pilot program consisting of open-topic engagement sessions held in an informal

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setting. Their next meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 24 at 4:30 pm in the Service and Resource Centre boardroom (411 Dunsmuir Street) and is open to the public.

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View the online edition for more information -  
<https://cnan.ca/2L9PI6w>