

Health and Housing Task Force



Meeting #1



Presentations



1

Terms & Purpose

2

Schedule & Procedures

3

Health & Housing Context

4

Priorities




1

Terms & Purpose



To address the health and housing crisis in our community.

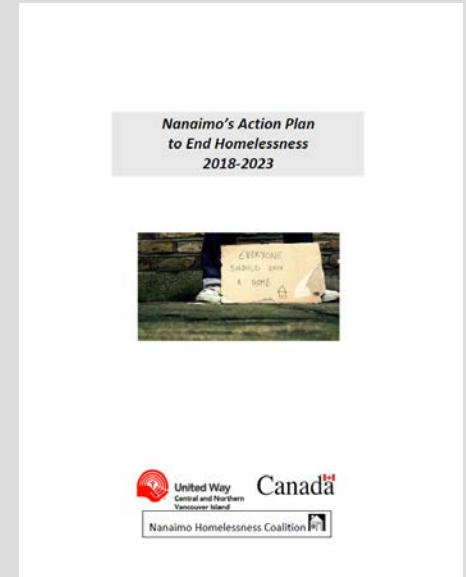
The task force will be required to:

Work with the **Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition**  to:

- 1) Fulfill Federal funding requirements; and,
- 2) Determine the optimal governance structure to implement the Nanaimo Action Plan to End Homelessness.

Terms & Purpose (cont.):

- Oversee the implementation of the Coalition's Action Plan to End Homelessness and Nanaimo's Affordable Housing Strategy;
- Provide recommendations to Nanaimo City Council on other issues arising from and giving rise to homelessness in our community (poverty, mental health, substance use disorders);
- Provide status updates on the progress of the taskforce to the Coalition;



Terms & Purpose (cont.):



- Determine the connection between the Regional District of Nanaimo affordable housing initiatives and those within the City of Nanaimo;
- Advocate for additional resources from all levels of government for housing, health and poverty reduction initiatives;
- Participate in the creation of a health, housing and homelessness communications strategy; and
- Address other issues as the task force sees fit.

Membership:



- Senior level decision makers

- Initial term twelve (12) months

- The voting membership:
 - One-two (1-2) members of Council
 - Ten (10) members

- Chair – member of Council
Alternate Chair – member of Council/other task force member

Membership (cont.):



- 1 – Snuneymuxw First Nation representative
- 1 – RCMP senior executive representative
- 1 – VIHA senior executive representative
- 1 – BC Housing senior executive representative
- 1 – Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction senior executive staff representative
- 1 – Service Canada senior executive staff representative
- 1 – Designated “Reaching Home” Community Entity representative (by council apt.)
- 2 – Non-Profit Organization representatives (by council apt.)
- 1 – Representative from Business Community (by council apt.)

2

Meeting Schedule & Procedures



The initial meeting will be called by the Chair, with the remaining meeting schedule established by the task force.

The following City Departments will provide support to the Task Force as needed:

- Community Development Staff
- City Clerk
- Other Staff as required

Non-voting representatives may be invited to attend the meeting specific to topics of shared interest.

All regular meetings are open to the public.

3

Health and Housing Overview





“Everyone [has the right] to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.”

- Article 11, United Nations’ International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1976)



Our Context & Challenges

- ❑ Widening gap between income and housing costs
- ❑ Continued high rates of childhood poverty

~50%

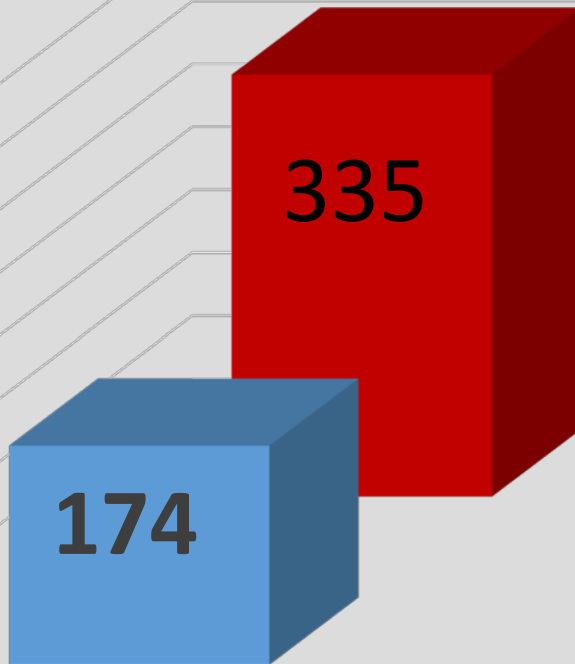
renters spending
>30% income on
rent

23%

2016 Child
Poverty Rate

Context & Challenges

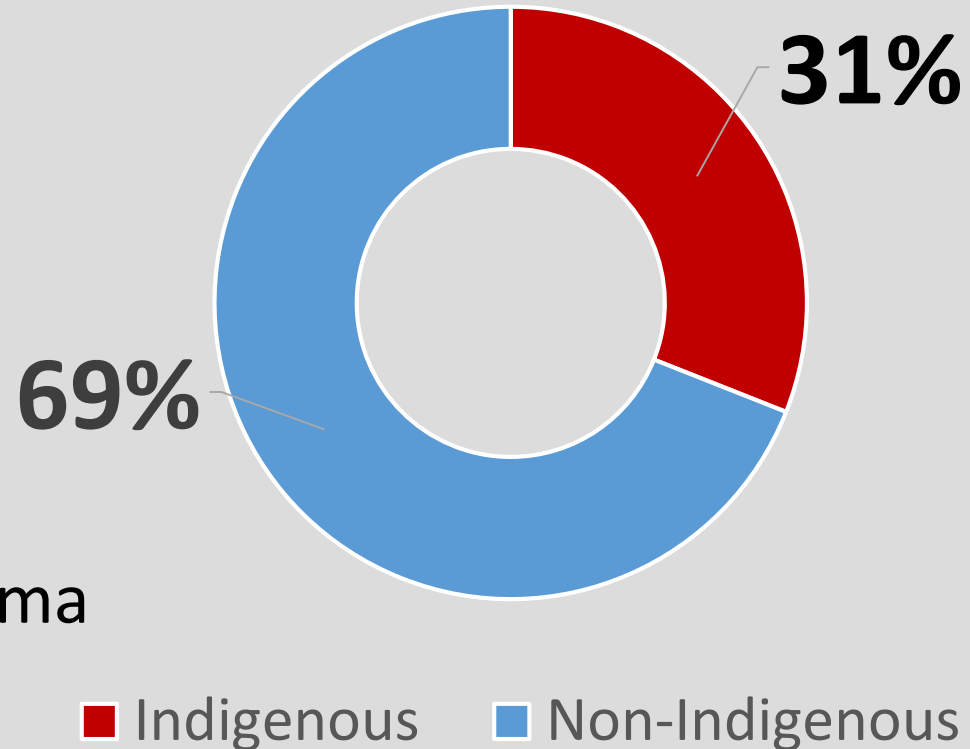
- ❑ Homeless Count doubled between Spring 2016 and Winter 2018



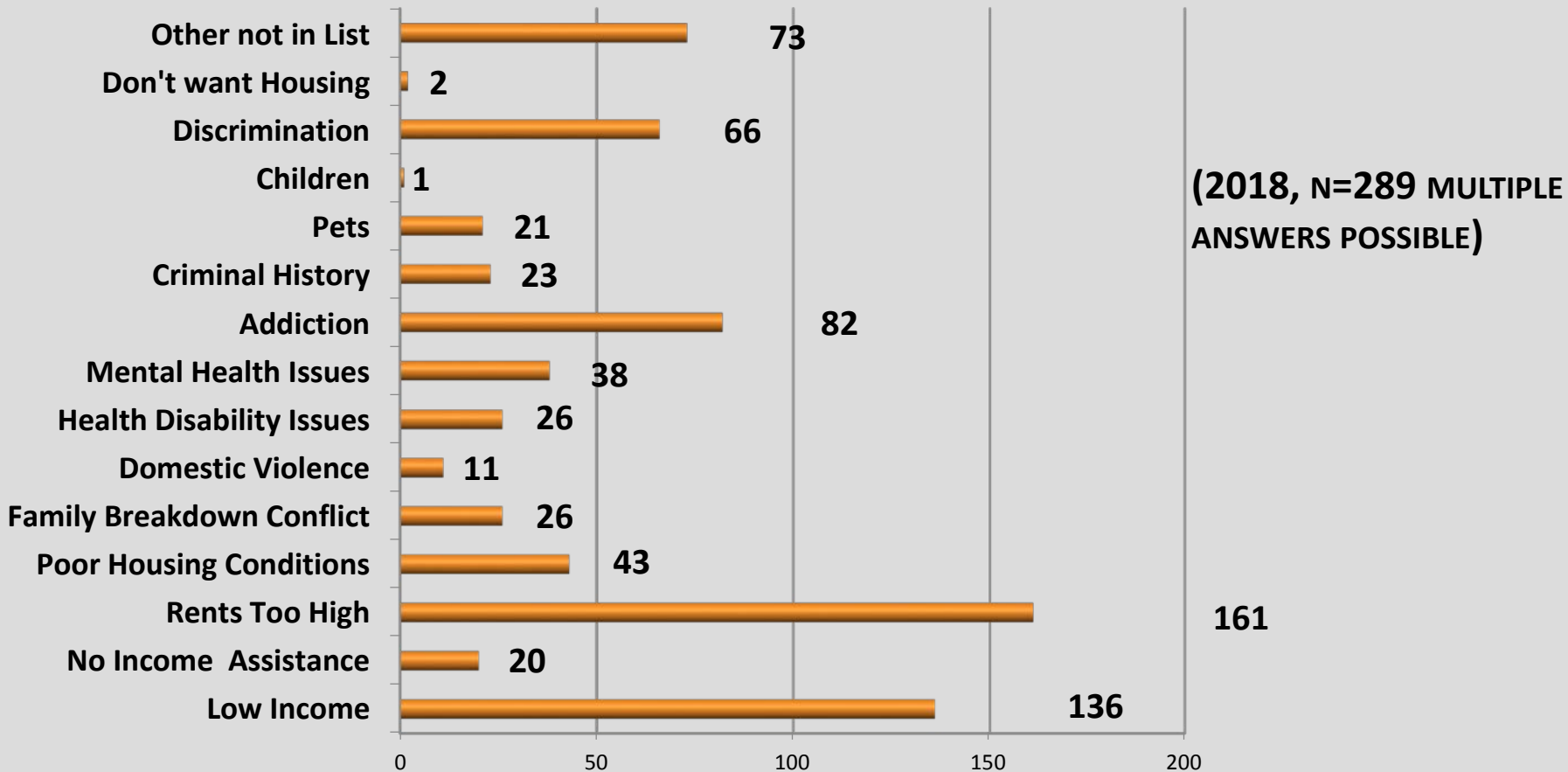
335
Spring 2018
Homeless Count
– 174 Winter
2018

Context & Challenges

- ❑ Indigenous people disproportionately struggle with homelessness
- ❑ Impacts of intergenerational trauma from colonization including residential schools



What are barriers to housing?



Context & Challenges Cont..

- ❑ Increasing street-involved and homeless population outpacing resources
- ❑ Deepening substance use and mental health crisis
- ❑ Health challenges affect ability to maintain housing
- ❑ Gaps in current service system and capacity of providers



Tent City & Crisis Housing

BC Housing 30 Shelter Beds

~170 housed in Modulares

~150 housed in Modulares

65 Shelter Beds

~30 Shelter Beds

Tent City Begins



260 register for housing

up to 300 campers

Tent City Closed



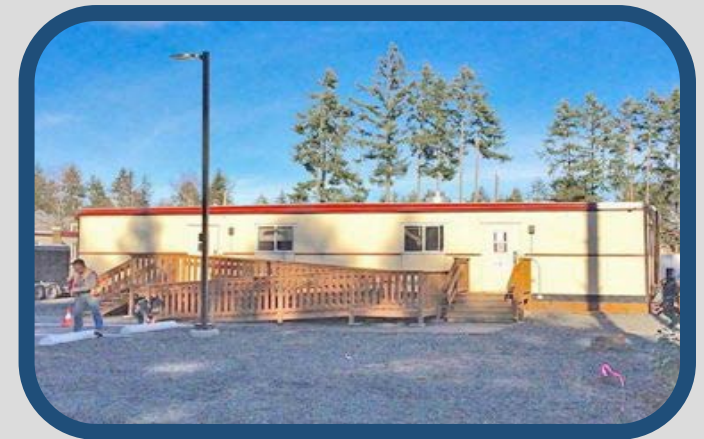
~7 Months
2018

7 Months +
2019

May Jun July Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Context & Challenges Cont..

- ❑ Temporary crisis housing sites while providing evidence of helping many residents, have at same time impacted community
- ❑ Long term appropriate housing needed to replace these sites

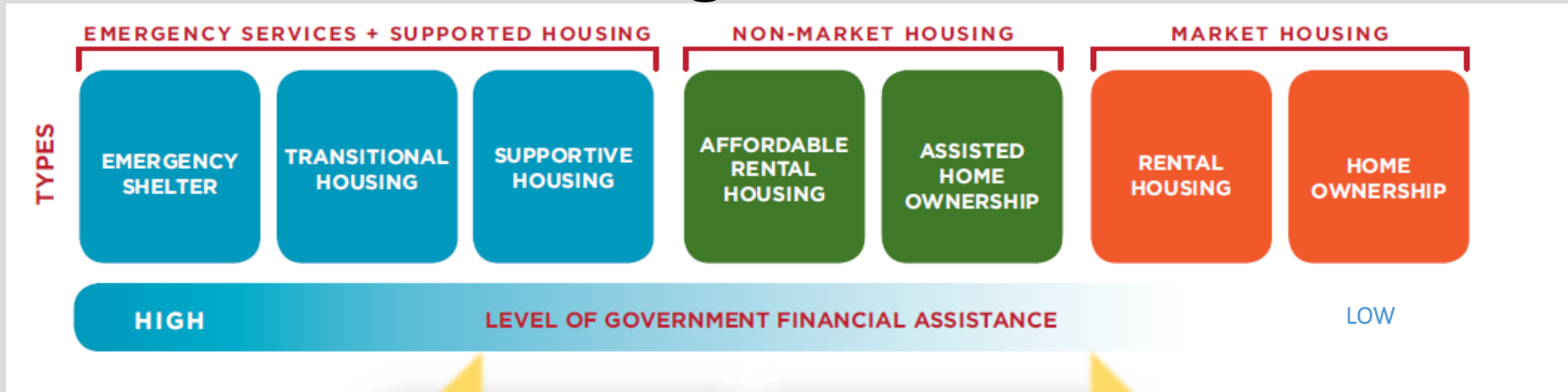


Context & Challenges Cont..

- ❑ Community divided on harm reduction and frustrated with level of support for those struggling with homelessness, mental health and substance use and related community impacts
- ❑ Hardest to house remain most disruptive on streets and under served



Housing Continuum



Why Health, Housing and Social Issues Matter to Local Government

- Some neighbourhoods, parks & commercial areas experienced and perceived as unsafe
- Sheltering in public spaces; parks, streets, plaza's...
- Anti-social behaviours impacting neighbourhoods & businesses
- Open drug use & inebriation
- Public urination & defecation
- Graffiti & property damage
- Discarded drug paraphernalia & increased litter

Need to manage community impacts while recognizing that the unhoused & street involved are part of our community & worthy of civic services as much as any citizen

Federal Investment in Nanaimo

- ❑ Designated Community since 2001 – Nanaimo receives \$811,000/year Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funds via Service Canada
- ❑ Two streams: Aboriginal (\$256,000) and Designated (\$555,000)
- ❑ Federal government has renewed the program for 10 years under the name “Reaching Home”
- ❑ Nanaimo’s Community Advisory Board (Nanaimo Homeless Coalition), allocates the funds



Role of Provincial Government

- Partners with local governments, non-profit agencies and housing stakeholders through BC Housing
- Offers funding programs based on strategic priorities
- Provides the legislative framework for land use planning, landlord-tenant relations and strata housing
- Funds Island Health services and health promotion



Role of Municipal Government

- Adopting growth strategies and plans that encourage affordable housing units (e.g. RGS, OCP, AHS)
- Housing-friendly zoning bylaws
- Offering property tax incentives, W&S and/or DCC reductions for supported and affordable housing projects
- Provision of land and/or buildings
- Can play a leadership role in addressing social issues and homelessness/affordable housing with other funders/partners**

City Responses to Social Issues

- Sponsor supportive housing
- Facilitate and fund shelters and a shower program
- Provide rent supplements
- Urban Clean Up program
- Safe needle disposal boxes
- Coordination across City departments
- Enhanced security patrollers
- Provide space in City buildings for social supports
- Support affordable housing projects
- Allocate \$85,000 per year to local agencies who support residents
- Provide leadership, fostered collaboration, supported non-profit partners

Affordable Housing Strategy Objectives

- Increase the supply of rental housing
- Support infill and intensification in existing neighbourhoods
- Diversify housing form in all neighbourhoods
- Continue to support low income and special needs housing
- Strengthen partnerships and connections



Current Implementation Projects

- Short-term rental accommodation regulation
- Adaptive Housing Bylaw
- Community Amenity Contribution Review
- Inventory/mapping of existing rental stock
- Rental zoning research for OCP review
- Affordable housing site acquisition criteria

Action Plan to End Homelessness 2018-2023

Strategy 1: Better engagement with people at the perimeter of the shelter system

Strategy 2: Create a day space/Drop-in facility

Strategy 3: Remap social networks

Strategy 4: Managing market pressures and income insecurity

Strategy 5: Supportive housing

*Nanaimo's Action Plan
to End Homelessness
2018-2023*



Action Plan to End Homelessness (cont.)

Strategy 6: Support for personal and program transitions

Strategy 7: Manage increasing acuity

Strategy 8: Increased sector capacity

Strategy 9: Considerations in serving Indigenous people

Strategy 10: Prevention through agency coordination

Moving Forward



Opportunity to agree on key priorities and determine which strategies should be implemented to address priorities over the short/medium/long term.


4

Priorities?



nutsamaat

(working together as one)



Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so much.

(Helen Keller)



Discussion