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The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

REPORT

To: Mayor Linda Buchanan and Members of Council

From: Renee de St. Croix, Manager, Long Range and Community Planning

Subject: NORTH SHORE HOMELESSNESS ACTION INITIATIVE FINAL REPORT

Date: June 29, 2022 File No: 10-5040-04-0001/2022

The following is a suggested recommendation only. Refer to Council Minutes for adopted resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

PURSUANT to the report of the Manager, Long Range and Community Planning, dated June 29, 2022, entitled “North Shore Homelessness Action Initiative Final Report”:

THAT the North Shore Homelessness Action Initiative Final Report be endorsed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. North Shore Homelessness Action Initiative Final Report (CityDocs [#2195159](#))

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement of the final report on the North Shore Homelessness Action Initiative.

BACKGROUND

In June of 2020, Council approved a resolution directing staff to create a cross-jurisdictional Steering Committee and Working Group to develop actions that are focused on clear, comprehensive and coordinated strategies to prevent homelessness, to serve the people who are currently homeless, and to create pathways out of homelessness. The District of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver passed similar motions in summer 2020.

The resolution was written in response to the fact that the number of people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness is increasing and that COVID-19 has further exposed the lack of services and supports available to those experiencing homelessness.

A staff Working Group was convened during the fall and winter of 2020 to begin the organizing and information gathering to prepare a Terms of Reference. The Working Group was comprised of staff from each of the five local jurisdictions: City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) Nation, and səilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nation.

In late November and December 2020, all three municipal Councils endorsed the Terms of Reference for the North Shore Homelessness Action Initiative (NSHAI) and at its first meeting on March 24, 2021, the Steering Committee also approved the Terms of Reference.

The Steering Committee was comprised of elected and appointed government officials or delegates from each of the local jurisdictions including the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) Nation, and səilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nation, as well as Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Housing, and Provincial and Federal elected Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly.

DISCUSSION

The NSHAI served as a forum for coordination amongst First Nations, Municipal, and other levels of government and agencies with direct and indirect authority for homelessness initiatives, supportive policies, funding, and capital investments.

Attachment 1 provides a detailed final report on the work completed over the course of the NSHAI and includes actions for moving forward.

Over the last 18 months, the Steering Committee has met five times and the Working Group met on an ongoing and regular basis to undertake tasks related to achieving the objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference (included in Attachment 1). The outcomes of the NSHAI include:

- A shared understanding of the issues, complexities, and the policy and housing needs related to homelessness;
- A vision and principles to guide the work;
- The creation of an inventory of all the work (policies, actions, facilities, committees, and more) related to homelessness within the five local North Shore jurisdictions for staff to use to better support and collaborate with one another; and,
- The creation of 12 priority actions that are focused on:
 - Advocacy for and implementation of a single point of entry and housing first model;

- Advocacy for and delivery of emergency shelter provision, transition and supportive recovery housing, and permanent affordable and/or supportive housing;
- Commitments to improve and expand collaboration and communication between jurisdictions and partners, including the informal continuation of the Working Group;
- Consideration of new policy ideas and response protocols to improve on the ground communications, equity, and consistency in Municipal and First Nations response across the North Shore; and,
- The collection, monitoring, and sharing of data to understand current and future needs as well as support public awareness and dialogue.

In addition to the above, the five local North Shore jurisdictions have been working together on several policy and action-based projects specific to homelessness and those at risk of homelessness through grants provided by the Provincial Government and administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

Going forward, the Steering Committee, which has completed its mandate, remains committed to increasing coordination and supporting initiatives, policies, funding, and capital investments to better support individuals experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk of homelessness. The Working Group has established close working relationships and will continue to meet as needed to support initiatives related to homelessness on the North Shore.

With the endorsement of this report, staff will work collaboratively to bring forward actions, initiatives, policies, and projects for Council's consideration to support individuals experiencing homelessness on the North Shore.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

This report has been shared with Community Partnership and Engagement, Corporate Strategic Initiatives, Leadership Team, and Policy and Projects Team.

STRATEGIC PLAN, OCP OR POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The North Shore Homelessness Action Initiative is supported by the Council Strategic Plan priorities to create a City for People. It is also supported by the City's Housing Action Plan goals and the upcoming Community Wellbeing Strategy.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Renee de St. Croix
Manager, Long Range and Community
Planning