



NORTH SHORE HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE 2013/2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Key Accomplishments and Initiatives in 2013/2014:

- ❖ Turning Point's new recovery centre for women affected by addiction is now open in the District of North Vancouver. The facility accommodates a maximum of nine women, and priority placement is given to women from the North Shore.
- ❖ The High Needs Health Connection Clinic, a collaboration between VCH and the Division of Family Practice on the North Shore, was launched and operates in collaboration with the support of local community service providers. The majority of its patients are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and have complex medical, mental health and addictions challenges. The clinic has had over 1144 visits and is substantially decreasing dependence on the acute care system.
- ❖ In March of 2014, the NSHTF participated in the Metro Vancouver Homeless Count. The Count identified the number of homeless individuals on the North Shore at 119, down from our peak of 127 in 2005, and 122 in 2008. However, the growth in the number of unsheltered homeless people shows that demand for services is higher than current capacity. Despite the small reduction in overall numbers, there is still growth within several subpopulations: Youth, seniors and Aboriginal people.
- ❖ The Canadian Street Soccer Games were hosted this year in North Vancouver from May 29th – 31st. The participating teams were homeless/at-risk from across the country who came to North Vancouver to compete for an opportunity to advance to International levels. Street Soccer Canada aims through this program to engage and connect with marginalized individuals using the positive power of sport.
- ❖ In partnership with many community service providers, the NSHTF coordinated Homelessness Action Week 2014 on the North Shore and a full calendar of events ran from October 13th – 19th, 2014. Connect Day this year provided meals, healthcare, clothing, haircuts and support services to over 122 homeless and at-risk individuals. In addition to Connect Day, a number of other events were hosted on the North Shore during Homelessness Action Week:
 - OCTOBER 13 - Thanksgiving Dinner at the Lookout Shelter
 - OCTOBER 14 – Sharing Abundance Community Dinner, North Lonsdale United Church
 - OCTOBER 15 - North Shore Connect Day, John Braithwaite Community Centre
 - OCTOBER 15 - Youth Safe House Dinner
 - OCTOBER 16 - Movie, Snacks and Chat at Ambleside Youth Centre
 - OCTOBER 18 - Street Soccer Exhibition Game, John Braithwaite Gymnasium
 - OCTOBER 19 - BBQ Dinner at the Lookout Shelter
- ❖ The NSHTF Website, www.northshorehomelessness.org was substantially updated and populated with helpful information. The website and @nshomelessness Twitter feed aims to inform agencies, homeless/at-risk and the public in general about homelessness on the North Shore and support services offered in the community.
- ❖ The McCreary Street Youth Homeless Survey is currently being implemented on the North Shore and this data will be included in a cross provincial sampling. This survey is conducted only every six years and provides good statistics and data for grant and report writing.

- ❖ The Shower Program at John Braithwaite Community Centre continues to grow and now serves on average 50 people per week.
- ❖ A large-scale mural, “Word to Your Motherland”, was created on the outside walls of the North Shore Lookout Housing Centre. The mural was a collaboration with artists from California, Vancouver, young North Shore artists and shelter residents. Young artists from the North Shore region were invited to work alongside the lead muralists to support the painting of this large-scale piece and contributed to the creation of a public art piece that will be a source of community pride and enjoyment for years to come.
- ❖ The North Shore Neighbourhood House, in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank (GVFB) launched a new “Food Hub” on the North Shore. “Food Hubs” are replacing traditional foodbank depots, and they empower clients to nourish themselves by providing access to healthy food, education and training. The North Shore Neighbourhood House is proud to be the first pilot location for the new Food Hub model where produce grown by the Edible Garden Project is now available at the Food Hub for the first time. Each week a selection of fresh picked produce grown in one of our Sharing Gardens at very affordable prices alongside the typical food bank wears.
- ❖ The annual Dundarave Festival of Lights continues to grow and this year \$35,000 was raised which will benefit the Lookout Society North Shore Shelter.