

Homelessness Study Project for the Tri-Cities

Summary Report

**Prepared for:
Homelessness Study Project Steering Committee**

**Prepared by:
John Talbot & Associates Inc.**

May 2001

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Introduction:

In late 1999, the federal government announced a major homelessness initiative which included funding of \$305 million over a three year period for "Supporting Community Partnership Initiatives" to be allocated through Human Resources Development Canada. Greater Vancouver was identified as one of the ten areas targeted for funding under this program. In March 2000, the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness was formed. This steering committee is responsible for developing a regional plan to address homelessness, as well as making recommendations for the distribution of federal funds totaling some \$25.1 million.

The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness released a report entitled "Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver" on March 19, 2001. This plan profiled the homeless population (both absolute and at-risk) and assessed their needs; provided a current inventory of facilities and services serving homeless people and identified facility and service gaps; and outlined strategies to address homelessness and create a continuum of housing and support. This plan relied on information from previous studies and surveys undertaken on homelessness and it made reference to a number of information gaps. Of particular relevance to this report is the following statement on page 16: "While needs may exist in the Northeast Sector and Ridge Meadows, no studies that provide evidence of need have been found."

Given the absence of information on homelessness in the Tri-Cities and the availability of funding to study this potential issue, SHARE Family and Community Services Society successfully applied for funding to study homelessness under the Supporting Community Partnership Initiatives program. In January 2001, a broad-based community steering committee (please see appendix 1) was formed and a consultant was hired to undertake "The Homelessness Study Project for the Tri-Cities." Over the next four months, the consultant, with the guidance of the steering committee, examined the prevalence of and current responses to homelessness, as well as the need for and nature of a strategy to address homelessness in the Tri-Cities. The resultant report is intended to inform the larger regional process, to raise awareness about homelessness within the study area and to provide a recommended action plan for the Tri-Cities.

The report itself is divided into the following five sections, **with all of the background information contained in a companion document:**

1. Methodology
2. Definition of Homelessness
3. Portrait of Homelessness in the Tri-Cities
4. Estimated Size of the Homeless Population in the Tri-Cities
5. Current Resources in the Tri-Cities
6. Recommended Action Plan

It should be stressed that this report is only an initial study of homelessness in the Tri-Cities and that further research will be necessary to both answer questions raised in this report and to justify the expenditure of funds for major initiatives such as a permanent emergency shelter.

1. Methodology:

This study took about four months to complete and involved over 25 government, community service and faith-based organizations, as well as some 70 individuals. Involved organizations included: the three municipal governments of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody; the Coquitlam RCMP and Port Moody Policy Department; the Salvation Army; SHARE Family and Community Services Society; the Society for Community Development; SUCCESS; and the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security. For a complete listing of involved individuals and organizations, please see appendix 2.

Consultation was achieved through a number of techniques, including a questionnaire, follow-up phone calls and interviews, and a focus group. With regard to the first technique, of the 54 questionnaires that were circulated, 48 were completed and returned for a response rate of 89%. Of note, in some cases, the questionnaire was copied and circulated to other members within an agency or organization. This situation was definitely a factor in the high response rate. For a summary of the questionnaire, as well as the verbatim responses, please consult section 1 of the companion document.

Follow-up phone calls were made to and interviews were held with selected questionnaire respondents to clarify information that was provided, to probe for more detail and to request additional information. In total, eight follow-up phone calls were made and three interviews were held with service providers (please consult section 2 of the companion document). Additionally, four interviews were held with homeless or formerly homeless individuals (please consult section 3 of the companion document). Finally, a focus group was held with eight staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security (please consult section 4 of the companion document).

The Homelessness Study Project Steering Committee met on four occasions. The first meeting was to discuss the project's objectives and to meet each other and the consultant, as well as to have input into the questionnaire. The second meeting was to discuss the preliminary questionnaire results and other background information. Steering committee members also suggested the names of other contacts that needed to be consulted. The third meeting was to discuss and develop a draft list of recommended actions (both short and longer term). The fourth and final meeting was to sign-off on the recommended actions and to form an ongoing Homelessness Task Group.

2. Definition of Homelessness:

While many different definitions of homelessness are used in the literature, most can be classified into one of two camps: definitions focusing on those who are absolutely homeless and those who are at-risk of homelessness.

For the purposes of this study:

- **absolutely homeless** refers to those people who are living with no physical shelter – i.e., on the street, in doorways, in parkades, in parks and on beaches, as well as those people living temporarily in emergency shelters or transition houses; and
- **at-risk of homelessness** refers to those people living in spaces or situations that do not meet basic health and safety standards, do not provide for security of tenure or personal safety and are not affordable.

Of note, the above definitions correspond to those being used by the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness.

3. Portrait of Homelessness in the Tri-Cities:

Absolutely Homeless:

Based on the questionnaire, interview and focus group responses, the absolutely homeless were described as being predominantly adult, single males of European descent. They were also described as possibly having mental health or substance misuse issues, as well as having physical health problems such as asthma, bronchitis, etc. Adolescents and women were also identified as being among the ranks of the absolutely homeless, although their numbers were seen as small compared to adult, single males. With regard to adolescents, their numbers were seen to increase during the summer months.

As to factors which may have contributed to people being absolutely homeless, the most often cited factors were mental health or substance misuse issues, abusive or dysfunctional relationships, chronic or long-term unemployment, and lack of affordable or secure rental housing. Other factors, although cited much less often, were deinstitutionalization, family breakdown, inadequate community supports and income assistance, and lack of a family support network. Of note, few respondents cited that being absolutely homeless was a lifestyle choice by those not wanting to live by the rules.

At-Risk of Homelessness:

Based on the questionnaire, interview and focus group responses, those at-risk of homelessness were described as being single female parent families and women and children living in abusive situations. Others identified as being at-risk were divorced, middle-aged single males, recent immigrants or refugees, and the working poor. With regard to the latter group, minimum-wage earners and single income families were seen as particularly vulnerable. The elderly and youth, as well as those people with disabilities and mental health or substance misuse issues, were also seen as vulnerable.

As to factors which may have contributed to people being at-risk of homelessness, the most often cited factors were lack of affordable or secure rental housing, abusive or dysfunctional relationships, chronic or long-term unemployment, mental health issues and substance misuse problems. Other factors, although cited much less often, were family breakdown (e.g., divorce, separation, etc.), heavy debt loads or limited financial resources, and inadequate community services and supports. With regard to the latter factor, drug and alcohol treatment facilities, employment assistance programs and lifeskills training, among others, were seen as inadequate.

4. Estimated Size of the Homeless Population in the Tri-Cities:

The two most contentious aspects of the numbers debate are centered around the issues of who should be included amongst the ranks of the homeless, and how should they be counted. The first issue is important, as who 'we' define as homeless determines who will be the recipient of funding, resources and services that are provided to deal with this issue.

Absolutely Homeless:

With the exception of the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security (MSDES) and the Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre, there is very little information to estimate the size of the absolutely homeless population in the Tri-Cities. MSDES does ask people applying for income assistance if they have a fixed address or not. In a review of open income assistance files on April 6, 2001, 26 files were classified as having no fixed address in the Tri-Cities. However, Sally Herbert, Community Services Co-ordinator, stated that this is not a good indicator of the number of absolutely homeless, as many applicants may use the address of a friend or relative because they are embarrassed to admit that they are homeless.

The Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre does maintain information on clients using its transition beds, as well as the number of turn-aways. In 1999, 192 women (including 101 children) who inquired about these beds were turned away either because they did not meet eligibility criteria or because no beds were available. As for other community service providers in the Tri-Cities, most do not maintain reliable statistics as to the number of clients, patrons and/or recipients who are absolutely homeless.

In discussions with shelter providers in other municipalities, those contacted stated that some of their clients were from the Tri-Cities. For example, Robert Anderson of the Salvation Army noted that about 5.8% of the homeless people using the Matt Program (as part of the Cold/Wet Weather Strategy) at the Garfield Hostel in New Westminster were from the Tri-Cities. Additionally, Peter Fedos of the Surrey Men's Shelter commented that one or two shelter users each month are from the Tri-Cities. Finally, Lynn Hillier of the Fraserside Women's Shelter in New Westminster, reported that between March 1, 2000 and January 12, 2001, 23 clients were from the Tri-Cities. Of note, these statistics do not capture those homeless people that have relocated to another municipality and did not access the shelter system.

Given the lack of information to do a service-based enumeration of the absolutely homeless population, other means had to be employed to estimate the size of this population in the Tri-Cities. The consultant conducted two partial counts of those people who are absolutely homeless (based on the locations provided by respondents to the homelessness study project questionnaire). The first count followed the Coquitlam River from the Red Bridge (across from Riverview Hospital) to the northern tip of Coquitlam River Park, while the second count targeted Mundy Park, the nature area between Meridian Road and Cedar Drive and the area along the Pitt River near the Lougheed Highway and the Wild Duck Inn. In total, seven absolutely homeless people were counted, three of which agreed to be interviewed. Additionally, evidence was found that would suggest that other homeless people were using or had used the locations in question.

While the above partial counts establish that absolutely homeless people are living in the Tri-Cities, they do not establish the size of this population in the Tri-Cities. To accomplish this, a full night count involving a large number of researchers or volunteers (paired up for safety) would be necessary and, even then, given the large area in question and the many parks and vegetated areas, many absolutely homeless people would likely still be missed. Additionally, the time of year is an important consideration, as the evidence would suggest that the absolutely homeless population is much larger during the summer months, when proximity to an emergency shelter is not as critical.

Given the above limitations and based on the information obtained from the homelessness study project questionnaire,¹ the homeless and service provider interviews, as well as background documentation provided to the consultant, the best estimate as to the number of absolutely homeless people living in the Tri-Cities would be in the range of 30 to 45 during the winter, with a much higher number during warmer weather months. **Of note, this number does not include those people who are “couch surfing” or temporarily sharing accommodation with family or friends, those women and children who were turned away from the above transition beds, and those people who have sought emergency shelter and related assistance in another municipality. If these people were factored into the equation, the size of the absolutely homeless population would be far higher.**

¹ About 80% of respondents to the homelessness study project questionnaire felt that there were absolutely homeless people living in the Tri-Cities. Of these respondents, 79% reported that they knew of specific locations where absolutely homeless people were living. In total, over 40 different locations were identified in the Tri-Cities.

At-Risk of Homelessness:

In the Tri-Cities, 7,950 families or 17.1% of all families had incomes below the low-income cut-offs² (one measure of the poverty line). Put another way, 6,815 children or 23.3% of all children (0-12) were members of such families. In the Tri-Cities, 3,825 or 22.5% of all renter households paid 50% or more of their gross household income on rent in 1996. According to Statistics Canada, these households were considered to have serious housing affordability problems. Additionally, in the Tri-Cities, there were 4,144 income assistance cases and 6,997 income assistance recipients in February 2001 (Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security, 2001).

In the Tri-Cities, there were about 1,800 permanent non-market rental housing units in 1999 and this housing comprised about 11% of the total rental housing supply. Of note, only 222 non-market rental housing units have been approved by HOMES BC between 1994 (the year the federal government stopped funding new non-market rental housing) and 1999. By comparison, in Burnaby, 978 non-market rental housing units have been approved by HOMES BC between 1994 and 1999. Additionally, in the Tri-Cities, there were over 1,800 households on BC Housing's waitlist for non-market rental housing in 1999.

In the Tri-Cities, there were estimated to be about 6,600 renter households living in secondary suites in 1999. As such, secondary suites contributed to about 52% of the rental housing supply in Port Coquitlam, to about 36% of the rental housing supply in Coquitlam and to about 28% of the rental housing supply in Port Moody (Gauthier, 2000). This form of rental housing has become increasingly important, as fewer apartments and townhouses have been built as rental (only 140 units between 1991 and 1999) and as existing rental housing is lost to condominium conversion or demolition. While secondary suites have become an important source of affordable rental housing, most units do not conform to municipal regulations and are thus vulnerable to closure.

Another segment of the population that is at-risk of homelessness are those people with serious and persistent mental illness. The general rule of thumb is that those people with serious and persistent mental illness represent about two percent of the general population (Simon Fraser Health Region, Health Profile, 2000). This means that in the Tri-Cities in 2001, there were about 3,900 people with serious and persistent mental illness. Additionally, in the Tri-Cities in 1998/99, there were 1,097 mental health outpatient admissions and the leading causes of these admissions were anxiety, mood and personality disorders, schizophrenia and substance related dependence and abuse (Simon Fraser Health Region, Health Profile, 2000).

² Statistics Canada, Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Subdivisions, 1996 Census – 100% Data and 20% Sample Data.

Injection drug users are at-risk of homelessness. Given the illegal nature of drug use, the number of drug users – especially injection drug users – is not well known. It is estimated that there are between 5,000 and 15,000 regular injection drug users in British Columbia and a similar number of occasional injection drug users (Ministry of Health, Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report, 1997). It is estimated that there are about 2,000 injection drug users in the Simon Fraser Health Region (which includes the Tri-Cities). Based on the Tri-Cities share of the larger Health Region's population, there could be up to 750 injection drug users in the Tri-Cities. Of note, it is estimated that about one-quarter of injection drug users are HIV-positive (Simon Fraser Health Region, Health Profile, 2000).

Women and children living in abusive situations are also at-risk of homelessness. In British Columbia, 59% of women over the age of 16 reported that they had experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence – the highest percentage in Canada. Additionally, in British Columbia, one in three women reported being assaulted by her husband or partner (BC Ministry of Women's Equality, 2001). For the Tri-Cities, this would equate to about 24,600 women (20+) who had ever been assaulted by a husband or partner in 2001.

Other segments of the population that are at-risk of homelessness include people with disabilities, people with alcohol misuse problems, recent immigrants and refugees, those with criminal justice system involvement, those who are chronically unemployed, the working poor and youth who are ineligible for income assistance.

While it is all but impossible to estimate the number of people who are at-risk of homelessness in the Tri-Cities, the above discussion makes it clear that it is a substantial number of people. Of note, some people are more at-risk than others, as they may be characterized as having more than one of the above risk factors.

5. Current Resources in the Tri-Cities:

Currently, there are no emergency shelter beds, only 14 first stage emergency transition beds (operated by the Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre) and no second stage housing in the Tri-Cities. Support services are also limited. There are two food banks (operated by the Quest Outreach Society and SHARE), one soup kitchen (operated by the Kinettes) and a number of community kitchens and a food buying club (operated by the Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre) in the Tri-Cities (please refer to inventory). In addition, faith-based organizations offer support services. For example, Como Lake United Church offers a Soup and Sandwich Cafe on Tuesdays. While many of these services do not specifically target those who are absolutely homeless or at-risk of homelessness, these populations may be using these services to help support themselves.

With regard to permanent non-market rental housing, there were about 1,800 units in 1999 and this comprised about 11% of the total rental housing supply in the Tri-Cities. Between 1994 and 1999, only 222 non-market rental housing units were approved by HOMES BC in the Tri-Cities. In 1999, there were over 1,800 households on BC Housing's waitlist for non-market rental housing (Gauthier, 2000). Two recent announcements by HOMES BC³ should ease but not significantly reduce this waitlist. The two announcements are:

- the Inlet Centre residences in Port Moody comprising 96 units, including 22 family townhouses, 23 apartments for single, low-income women over 40 (who are fleeing abuse), 41 supported housing units for seniors and a 10 bed hospice;
- the Prairie Avenue development in Port Coquitlam comprising 59 units, including 17 family townhouses, 23 family apartments and 19 wheelchair accessible apartments for seniors.

Additionally, on April 10, 2001, the Provincial government announced \$100 million in housing for the homeless. This money will pay for about 800 new units of non-market housing to be built around the Province. These units are to include townhouses for families to shelters, combined with transitional housing.

Inventory of Facilities and Services in the Tri-Cities*

Facilities and Services:	Target Group:	Beds/Units:
Permanent Non-Market Housing		
• Non-market housing managed by BC Housing.	Families, seniors and singles.	1,800**
• Non-market housing managed by BC Housing.	Low-income single persons.	0
• Non-market housing managed by BC Housing.	Single persons in need of support.	0
Second Stage/Short-Term Housing for Persons who are Homeless or At-Risk of Homelessness	Single persons in need of support.	0
Supported Apartments	Persons with mental health issues.	0
Supported Hotels	Persons with mental health issues or low incomes.	0
Supported Independent Living Program		
• Housing assistance and support.	Adults with mental illness.	82***
• Housing assistance and support.	Youths with mental illness.	0

³ Please note that this proposed housing is not captured in the Inventory of Facilities and Services in the Tri-Cities.

Facilities and Services:	Target Group:	Beds/Units:
Emergency Shelter Beds		0
Cold/Wet Weather Strategy Beds		0
Transition Housing	Women and children fleeing abuse.	14
Second Stage Housing for Women and Children	Women and children fleeing abuse.	0
Residential Treatment, Supportive Recovery and Transitional Living		
• Innervisions Recovery Centre	Adult males.	42
• Hope of Freedom Society – Resurrection House	Adult males.	40
• Hope of Freedom Society – Glory House	Adult females.	20
Detoxification		0
Dual Diagnosis Programs		0
Drop-In Centres		0
Employment Services		
• AVS Wesport	Ages 15+.	
• Career Connections	Ages 15 to 30.	
• RDK Career Services	Ages 31+.	
• Training Innovations	Ages 31+.	
• SUCCESS (for ESL)	All.	
Food Bank		
• Apostle Church		
• Hillside Community Church		
• SHARE Food Bank		
Mental Health Services		
• Lower Mainland Mental Health Centre		
• Tri-Cities Mental Health Centre		
Outreach Services		0
Housing Assistance and Referral		0

* Inventory is based on report prepared for the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver, March 19, 2001 and on report prepared by the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security, Resources for Participants in Tri-Cities/Ridge Meadows.

** Estimate is based on report prepared by Bryce Gauthier, Rental Housing Profile, 2000.

*** Refers to the Northeast Sector, which is comprised of the following municipalities: Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

6. Recommended Action Plan:

Immediate Action:

- That a homelessness task group be established. This group could be comprised of representatives from the three municipalities, the federal government, provincial government ministries, community and faith based organizations, the homeless population (both absolute and at-risk), housing societies, service agencies, etc.

This task group would work to implement the short and longer term actions as contained in this report. It would also advocate with and on behalf of the homeless, increase public awareness about this issue, identify data gaps and areas for further research, facilitate partnerships, leverage necessary resources, and periodically evaluate its progress.

Short Term Actions: (Within One Year)

- That a drop-in centre be opened. This centre would be a place where homeless people could come in off the street, have a coffee or meal, take a shower, use a washroom and/or obtain counselling and referral to other services. The centre would keep non-traditional hours (i.e., late night and early morning hours), have staff who are able to recognize and assist those with mental health issues, and possibly incorporate an outreach component.

In conjunction with this drop-in centre, a winter only emergency shelter would be offered as part of the Cold/Wet Weather Strategy. This shelter would provide minimum barrier beds or mats during extreme weather events. By minimum barrier, it is meant that income assistance eligibility would not be required.

Both services would collect, report and share data on those people who are absolutely homeless or at-risk of homelessness. This data would be maintained in a manner that ensures client confidentiality and would be used as supportive documentation in determining the need for a permanent emergency shelter, as well as other related services.

- That food bank services be reviewed. This review would address access to and coordination of food bank services, as well as availability of food (e.g., weekly versus bi-weekly distribution).
- That research be conducted with regard to youth homelessness in the Tri-Cities. This research would determine the number of youth who are absolutely homeless or at-risk of homelessness, as well as appropriate responses to deal with youth homelessness. Of note, the recently released McCreary Centre report entitled No Place to Call Home reported that homeless youth in suburban communities are often still connected to families, schools and social agencies and can still be reached. It further reported that once they leave their home municipality, they are much more likely to become long-term runaways.

- That a rental housing emergency response strategy be developed. This strategy could include informing tenants of their rights and obligations, helping tenants negotiate with landlords or mediate a settlement, providing tenants with a grant or loan to pay arrears, or linking tenants with community services to help them find alternative accommodation.
- That a directory of services be developed. This directory would list those services that meet the needs of people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The directory would outline eligibility criteria, hours of operation, location, etc.; would be updated annually; and would be available at the drop-in centre and other community service agencies.

Prior to publishing the directory, all potentially listed community services would need to be contacted to see if they have the capacity to respond to increasing demands for service. If they do not, the task group would work with the agency in question and others to enhance its capacity.

Longer Term Actions: (One to Three Years)

With regard to the longer term actions, homelessness study project participants felt that it was important to create an effective continuum of housing and services – e.g., emergency shelter and transition beds, bridge or supportive housing, permanent affordable housing, etc.

- That a social planning component (e.g., social planning advisory committee, social planner(s), etc.) be incorporated within the municipal framework of the Tri-Cities in order to address a variety of social issues and their interconnectedness, including homelessness.

Homelessness study project participants felt that a social planning component could play an important role in utilizing the tools available to all three municipal governments in developing new affordable housing and other responses to homelessness. These tools include affordable housing funds, density bonusing, fast tracking of development approvals, inclusionary housing policies and provision of land below market rates.

- That a feasibility study be undertaken to determine the need for a permanent emergency shelter. Such a shelter would prevent people from ending up on the street and would provide an exit from the street. It would also be capable of meeting the diverse needs of a number of different groups (e.g., men, women, youth, recent immigrants, refugees, seniors, etc.) and potentially include related services (e.g., counselling, crisis response, employment assistance, life skills training, etc.).
- That the number of first stage emergency transition beds be increased from the current 14 in the Tri-Cities. These beds target women and children fleeing abusive situations and are available for up to 30 days.

In 1999, 192 women (including 101 children) who inquired about these beds were turned away either because they did not meet eligibility criteria or because no beds were available.

- That bridge and halfway housing be increased. This housing would accommodate people with mental illness or addictions, as well as criminal justice involvement, and it would provide them with a supportive environment in which to integrate back into the community.
- That the supply of supported housing be increased. This housing refers to affordable, independent accommodation, sometimes in a purpose designed building, with added services that provide skills, training and support, as well as access or referral to counselling, crisis response and medical care.

This housing would accommodate people with mental illness, addictions and multiple diagnoses, as well as those people who are socially isolated and unable to function independently.

- That the supply of permanent affordable housing be significantly increased. This housing would accommodate individuals who can live independently in the community with little or no support services. This action could involve creating new housing, as well as maintaining the existing stock of affordable housing, including single room occupancy hotels.

In 1999, there were over 1,800 households on BC Housing's waitlist for non-market rental housing in the Tri-Cities.

- That street outreach services be enhanced. These services attempt to locate homeless people who are not using community services with the goal of establishing rapport and eventually engaging them in the services they need. Street outreach workers would identify homeless people, engage them in a positive way, assess their needs, help connect them with services, maintain ongoing contact and help facilitate a transition to enable them to obtain housing.

To make the most effective use of enhanced street outreach services, the above continuum of housing and services would first need to be in place within the Tri-Cities.

Appendix 1: Homelessness Study Project Steering Committee

The Homelessness Study Project Steering Committee was comprised of the following members:

- Sheilah Aherne, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Robert Anderson, The Salvation Army*
- Lawson Caseley, Community Co-ordinator for the Tri-Cities, Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security*
- Sharon Folkes, Planning Division, City of Port Coquitlam*
- Louise Hara, Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre*
- Ron Higo, Parks, Recreational and Cultural Services, City of Port Moody*
- Beatrice Ho, SUCCESS
- Lisa Kirwan, Port Coquitlam Financial Aid Worker, Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security
- Rita Lachance, Adult and Community Support, Simon Fraser Health Region*
- David Leavers, Leisure and Parks Services, City of Coquitlam*
- Joneen McCormick, Port Coquitlam District Supervisor, Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security*
- Roxann MacDonald, SHARE Family and Community Services Society*
- Lois Rougeau, Port Moody District Supervisor, Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security*
- Mike Stark, New View Society*
- Mike Watson, Friendship Baptist Housing
- Carrie Wilcott, Community Services/Victim Assistance Program, Coquitlam RCMP*
- Cory Wint, Innervisions Recovery Society*

* These members stated their intention to be part of the Homelessness Task Group. Other individuals will also be approached to be part of this task group.

Appendix 2: Involved Individuals and Organizations

The following individuals were involved in the Homelessness Study Project. Their involvement took many forms, including acting as a steering committee member, completing the questionnaire, participating in a focus group and taking part in an interview, as well as providing information with regard to homelessness in the Tri-Cities.

Homeless Individuals: (first names only for reasons of confidentiality)

- Dale
- Ken
- Malcolm
- Sean

Municipal Government:

- Bill Blakeston, Leisure and Parks Services, City of Coquitlam
- Steve Borthwick, Leisure and Parks Services, City of Coquitlam
- Sharon Folkes, Planning Division, City of Port Coquitlam
- Ron Higo, Parks, Recreational and Cultural Services, City of Port Moody
- Jim Lacroix, City of Coquitlam
- David Leavers, Leisure and Parks Services, City of Coquitlam
- Doug Okabe, Parks, Recreational and Cultural Services, City of Port Moody
- Don Ward, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, City of Port Moody

Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security:

- Lawson Casely, Community Services Co-ordinator for the Tri-Cities
- Karen Headridge
- Sally Herbert, Community Services Co-ordinator for the Tri-Cities
- Lisa Kirwan, Port Coquitlam Financial Aid Worker
- Lillian Lusk, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services Co-ordinator
- Joneen McCormick, Port Coquitlam District Co-ordinator
- Lenore Phillips
- Lois Rougeau, Port Moody District Supervisor
- Angela Shaw, Port Moody Financial Aid Worker
- Lynn Simpson, Coquitlam Financial Aid Worker
- Olly Sumner-Richter, Port Moody Financial Aid Worker

Community Service Agencies:

- Anita and Rob, Ending Violence Against Women, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Robert Anderson, The Salvation Army
- Krissie Annan, Food Bank and Thrift Store, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- George Blevings, Tri-Cities Mental Health Centre
- Caroline Bonesky, Fraserside Community Services Society
- Patricia Chang, SUCCESS (Tri-Cities Office)
- Karin Clevior, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Peter Fedos, Options: Services to Communities Society
- Mike Goheen, Alcohol and Drug Clinic, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Louise Hara, Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre
- Lynn Hillier, Fraserside Community Services Society
- Beatrice Ho, SUCCESS (Tri-Cities Office)
- Katrina Kiefer and Ninna Snyder, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Rita Lachance, Adult and Community Support, Simon Fraser Health Region
- Jenny Lam, SUCCESS (Tri-Cities Office)
- Tammy Lohnes, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Dale Lutes, Omega Residential Program, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Cheryl McKeever, Society for Community Development
- Mike Rogers, 43 Housing Society, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Mike Stark, New View Society
- Cory Wint, Innervisions Recovery Society

Faith-Based Organizations:

- Eagle Ridge United Church
- Merry Fowler, Como Lake United Church
- Joyce Lissimore, Trinity United Church
- Greg Mohr, King of Life Lutheran Church
- Wendy Toohey, Neighbourlink (Tri-Cities)
- Mike Watson, Friendship Baptist Housing
- Scott Young, Tri City Vineyard Church

Police Services:

- Corporal Hannibal, Coquitlam RCMP
- Sergeant Robb McGirr, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, Port Moody Police Department
- Carrie Wilcott, Community Resources/Victim Assistance Program, Coquitlam RCMP

Others:

- Please note that there were ten unidentified questionnaire respondents.