



## ABORIGINAL COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

102-2298 Millstream Road  
Victoria, BC  
V9B 6H2

March 26, 2021

### Re: The Strengthening Communities' Services Program

Dear Ms. Thompson,

As per our discussion, please see the funding needs of the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society (ACEH) in relation to the Strengthening Communities' Services Program that was recently announced by the provincial government. This proposal outlines our key needs in the 2021/22 fiscal year, as they relate to supporting unsheltered Indigenous individuals on Vancouver Island. These needs include staffing, programming, and operating costs totalling **\$551,259** to adequately expand our services to meet the needs of the unsheltered Indigenous Street Community.

#### Mental Health and Wellness

Many of the people the ACEH serves have experienced significant trauma related to colonization, displacement, disconnection from culture and homeland, and homelessness, which has been further compounded by the isolation and loneliness of living through a pandemic. As a result of this ongoing trauma, many of our **family members** (clients) experience mental health and substance use challenges and have had those challenges exacerbated over the past year.

To address this issue, the ACEH would like to hire a full-time Registered Clinical Counsellor to work with members of the Indigenous Street Community in both one-on-one and group settings to support resiliency and pathways to healing and recovery.

#### Nursing Support

With the support of FNHA and Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), the ACEH was able to hire a full-time Street Nurse in 2020. Many members of the Indigenous Street Community have experienced racism and discrimination in the healthcare system. These experiences have resulted in many of our family members disengaging from their physical health altogether. The Street Nurse position has significantly increased the ACEH's capacity to provide health and medical care, which has empowered family members to engage with their healthcare needs in a safe, culturally supportive environment. The Street Nurse's role is broad and includes medication administration, acute care, care planning, and chronic illness management. Unfortunately, at this time the ACEH has not been successful in securing funding to maintain the Street Nurse position at its current capacity.

To meet the physical health and wellness needs of those we serve, the ACEH would like to continue the full-time Street Nurse through the 2021/22 fiscal year.

#### Indigenous Youth Outreach

COVID-19 has created unique challenges for Indigenous youth experiencing homelessness. Those who were previously precariously housed, couch surfing, or living in shelters, have faced increased difficulties due to COVID-19 and associated public health measures. Social isolation and mental health challenges have exacerbated existing family conflict and forced more Indigenous youth into homelessness. The ACEH does not currently have the capacity to offer services to youth, although we have on occasion been able to provide eviction prevention funding and other short-term solutions. In recognition of the critical role addressing youth homelessness plays in preventing chronic homelessness, the ACEH would like to hire a full-time Youth Housing and Outreach Advocate. This initiative is aligned with the ACEH's 3-year Operations Plan, which includes actions to address Indigenous youth homelessness.



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The Youth Housing and Outreach Advocate would build relationships with Indigenous youth experiencing homelessness in Victoria, provide them with nourishment/cultural boxes, and support them in navigating existing systems to access housing and support, with the ultimate goal of creating positive flow through the housing continuum.

### Traditional Health & Wellness

Land-based, cultural healing is a cornerstone of our Dual Model of Housing Care, which integrates decolonized harm reduction practices and culturally supportive housing. Members of the Indigenous Street Community have demonstrated time and time again how critical learning about traditional food systems is to their healing and recovery.

In recognition of the importance of connection to land, culture, and community, the ACEH would like to hire a full-time Traditional Health and Wellness Coordinator. The Traditional Health and Wellness Coordinator would have a broad range of responsibilities including coordinating and facilitating land-based events focused on the identification, harvest, and use of traditional foods and medicines, expanding and enhancing the current therapeutic gardening program to suit the needs of the unsheltered Indigenous Street Community through the ACEH's existing gardening plot at the University of Victoria, and facilitating access to spiritual connection in the form of Elder support and spirit baths.

### Operating Costs

Aside from the staffing and programming needs discussed above, the ACEH is also in need of funding for various operating costs to expand our current outreach capacity associated with our current services to the unsheltered Indigenous Street Community that are not yet covered by our current budget. These costs include:

- Maintenance and insurance costs for the ACEH van, which is utilized for daily outreach deliveries and transport to and from land-based camps.
- Nourishment/Cultural boxes for members of our outreach cohort, to whom we delivered 467 boxes this year. The boxes include basic necessities like food and hygiene products, cultural items such traditional foods and medicines, arts and crafts supplies, sage and sweet grass, and PPE such as masks, gloves, and disinfectant wipes (please note that the Outreach staff positions are currently fully funded by BC Housing and the Capital Regional District, and are therefore not included in this proposal).

For a detailed overview of our budget projections for each of these projects, see **Appendix A**. For definitions of each budget line, see **Appendix B**.

Thank you for your ongoing support and advocacy on behalf of the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness. The City of Victoria has been instrumental in our progress thus far and we look forward to ongoing collaboration in the future.

Respectfully,

**Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi**

Executive Director, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society



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**APPENDIX A: BUDGET INFORMATION**

Table 1. Staffing needs.

<b>STAFFING COSTS</b>								
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>RATE/ HOUR</b>	<b>HOURS/ WEEK</b>	<b>WEEKS/ YEAR</b>	<b>REGULAR HOURS/YEAR</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>MERCS @ 10%</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>ANNUAL STAFFING COST</b>
<i>Street Nurse (RN)</i>	\$40	40	52	2,080	\$83,200	\$8,320	\$2,200	<b>\$93,720</b>
<i>Registered Clinical Counsellor</i>	\$45	40	52	2,080	\$93,600	\$9,360	\$2,200	<b>\$105,160</b>
<i>Traditional Health and Wellness Coordinator</i>	\$28	40	52	2,080	\$58,240	\$5,824	\$2,200	<b>\$66,264</b>
<i>Youth Housing and Outreach Advocate</i>	\$24	40	52	2,080	\$49,920	\$4,992	\$2,200	<b>\$57,112</b>



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Table 2. Programming needs for each staff position.

<b>PROGRAMMING COSTS</b>							
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>STAFF TRAINING</b>	<b>TECH (CELL/ LAPTOP/ SOFTWARE)</b>	<b>PPE</b>	<b>SUPPLIES</b>	<b>LAND-BASED</b>	<b>TRAVEL</b>	<b>ANNUAL PROGRAMMING COST</b>
<i>Street Nurse (RN)</i>	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$500	\$5,000	\$0	\$1,000	<b>\$11,400</b>
<i>Registered Clinical Counsellor</i>	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$500	\$2,500	\$0	\$1,000	<b>\$8,900</b>
<i>Traditional Health and Wellness Coordinator</i>	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$500	\$2,500	\$24,000	\$1,500	<b>\$33,400</b>
<i>Youth Housing and Outreach Advocate</i>	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$500	\$2,500	\$8,000	\$1,000	<b>\$16,900</b>

Table 3. Operating needs.

<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>		
<b>OUTREACH VAN MAINTENANCE / INSURANCE</b>	<b>NOURISHMENT/CULTURAL BOXES</b>	<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COST</b>
\$2,500	\$84,000	<b>\$86,500</b>



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*Table 4. Total needs and administration costs.*

<b>ANNUAL VALUES</b>		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION @ 15%</b>	<b>TOTAL ANNUAL COST</b>
<b>\$479,356</b>	<b>\$71,903</b>	<b>\$551,259</b>



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### APPENDIX B: BUDGET LINE DEFINITIONS

**MERCS:** Mandatory Employment Related Costs such as EI, CPP, and WorkSafe. These costs are estimated at 10%.

**Capacity Development/Staff Training:** Training to build the capacity of staff working directly with the Indigenous Street Community. May include: naloxone administration, overdose prevention, conflict resolution, de-escalation, medication administration, LGBTQ2S+ awareness, Indigenous awareness, etc.

**Technology:** Laptop, cell phone and monthly cell phone plan.

**PPE:** Masks, gloves, gowns, shoe covers, hazmat suits, cleaners and sanitizers.

**Supplies:** This category will encompass various supplies specific to each program. This may include:

- Cultural supplies (sage, sweetgrass, cedar, journals, tobacco, etc.)
- Medical supplies for nursing staff
- Food for events (traditional and non-traditional)
- Office supplies
- Cleaning supplies

**Land-based:** Camp costs including site reservations, Elder/Knowledge Keeper honouraria, traditional foods and medicines, cultural supplies, camping and outdoor gear for participants, bus/van rentals, etc.

**Travel:** Fuel, parking, and insurance costs.

**Administration:** Flat 15% administration fee to cover broad administrative needs including:

- Professional services (accounting, HR, legal advice)
- Wages for Senior Management and administrative support
- Payroll costs
- Audit costs