

## **Sheltering Solutions Workshop Summary**

### **1. A sheltering in vehicles (e.g. cars, vans, RVs, etc. program) with support services**

Why does your group think this is a good solution (rationale)? What are the pros and cons?

#### **PROS**

- Allows the city to use “scrap” buses to their full potential
- Could create jobs for people to drive the buses
- Low cost
- Quick to get going
- Easy win BUT limited. Will only help certain people.
- Will lower crime rate
- Allows privacy and independence
- It is already happening (e.g. Walmart)

#### **CONS**

- Assumes people own vehicles.
- takes up parking
- complaints from residents

What next five steps should the City take to implement this solution?

- Retrieve a place to park and turn buses into bunk beds for up to 20 to 40 people depending on double decker or not
- Find a usable parking lot for nighttime parking or switch the parking lot on a daily or weekly basis
- Buy private land and also have a commune of farmers and other occupations of homeless that help in their commune. Let the homeless build their future.
- Inventory of potential sites (not near parks or kids)
- Use existing resources/services (or create new?). Washrooms in parks?
- Determine how many are needed. Survey people that might use it.
- Create a central HUB with services (e.g. water, washrooms, etc.) Store front?
- Examine what other places are doing (e.g. Venice, California)
- Education/communication (make sure the public understands)
- Provide place/tools for vehicle maintenance

Which organizations, if any, should the City collaborate and partner with to implement this solution?

- Farmers
- HeroWork
- Helping Hands
- Community fundraisers

- AVI, Cool Aid, Salvation Army (groups that know the people who will use it)
- BCAA (related to vehicles)
- Businesses: car lots (especially near existing shelters for services)
- CRD and other municipalities in region
- Parks and Recreation

Is there anything else you would like the city to consider about this proposed solution?

- Buses that have bunk beds
- Buy the BC Transit buses that are going to be sold for scrap
- Buses with bunk beds
- Nighttime shelter buses that park at night and relocate for daytime parking in unused parking lots – could sleep up to 20 people per bus
- Buses that have bunk beds instead of seats – they also often have bathrooms
- Buy a cruise ship
- Buy a cruise ship and house people on it.
- Convert a barge into housing units
- Turn a barge into a shelter
- Do not use parks for shelter (not appropriate for kids – needles etc.)
- Using buildings is better than using vehicles
- Don't raise taxes
- Use fundraisers: e.g. art sales where half goes to artist and half goes to shelter
- City should use TV/Radio for education/communication on this subject because wide exposure
- City needs to connect more with people who need shelter (this event helped with this).

## **2. A program for residential/local groups to provide shelter in their homes or buildings.**

Why does your group think this is a good solution (rationale)? What are the pros and cons?

- Floating subsidy program could be used to support Option #2 (Program for residents/organizations to provide shelter in their homes or facilities)
- would help to better integrate people without homes into the community

### **PROS**

- short term notice
- safe – especially for women
- physical security
- comfort
- build relationship
- Would give people something to do & to make new friends
- Help to make the community stronger
- support for detox
- income for homeowner

### **CONS**

- still doesn't solve the problem of having one's own space
- theft/damage to house
- pets

What next five steps should the City take to implement this solution?

- provide subsidy for homeowners
  - Incentive to provide the shelter
- Standards of practice
  - problem solving
  - conflict resolution
  - rules & regulations
- Hold a community meeting to establish interested parties for participating
- Service organization & registry of beds
- find opportunities for home sharing
- develop work service agreements
- promote the program
- find partnerships

Which organizations, if any, should the City collaborate and partner with to implement this solution?

- Habitat for Humanity
- Police

**3. Find additional beds at existing shelters.**

NO FEEDBACK ON THIS TOPIC

#### **4. Funding to make existing buildings into temporary shelters (e.g. vacant motels, City facilities, provincial government facilities, etc.)**

Why does your group think this is a good solution (rationale)? What are the pros and cons?

- Vic Plaza Hotel. Common room where the old show room is. It already has rooms & beds. Also Mt. Saint Edwards used to be a care home.
- People could live and work – help with maintenance
- Why does this need to be a temporary solution?
- Using a vacant building shouldn't be looked at as a temporary solution
- Could be a permanent solution
- Why not a PERMENENT solution?
- There should be designated areas in the city where the buildings are restored. They should be fixed up to a level fitting a certain budget. Should be two options for buildings - for people who are actively using, and for people who want to stay sober.
- Instead of putting all mandate into one part of the problem this would definitely help and solve a lot of problems for quite a few people

#### **PROS**

- talented people who can renovate & run the building
- a way to hire people who are currently unemployed
- create jobs for renovations
- creates jobs
- you can create opportunity for people to work on the buildings
- create jobs while renovating the space
- Fix up the buildings using the man power from the people who are being housed
- creates jobs for people
- Could use sweat equity – community building if future users help prepare the building
- Could keep people busy who are homeless – building, fixing it up
- Provide an opportunity for homeless to work on upgrading the buildings
- Could hire homeless to help fix the building and give a credit towards rent
- Allow homeless to “co-create” their space – empowerment
- Gives people a sense of self-worth if they are involved
- People who are homeless want solutions, so would want to be involved
- makes it a home (e.g. warehouse, school gyms, empty schools, crystal gardens)
- A door of my own – feel like I belong
- Builds community – provides an address
- a HOME builds structure & a sense of belonging
- Builds community – provides an address
- sense of community to help raise spirits
- People want a room with a bathroom & some privacy
- preserve architecture/heritage & put it to best use

- recycling a building that needs much needed upgrades
- Everything in place
- Already built
- Existing buildings ARE shelter
- Make a use for the buildings that are empty/abandoned
- building already exists
- Amenities/services (washrooms, etc.) may already exist
- Using structures that already exist
- Quick to get going
- It is immediate
- immediate solution
- Stability, security, better health, privacy, breaking the cycle of poverty, social advancement
- Able to support diversity
- A place for belongings
- storage
- 24 hour storage
- saves money
- Affordable
- No extra cost to build
- More affordable
- Uses one of the many vacant buildings around the City of Victoria
  - o a chance to revitalize a space
  - o Much quicker than starting from scratch
- Will help people gather so they can be helped both health wise & with a stronger sense of community
- Reduces waste
- better than sleeping outside
- Much better than sleeping outside
- helps to beautify the city
- warm place to stay – out of environmental elements
- emergency shelter opportunity
- control the bed bugs
- people are healthier INSIDE rather than outside
- less stress for shelters

#### CONS

- people don't want to move
- security needs
- maintenance needs
- organizational difficulties
- fire safety
- increased budget

- don't concentrate because it can overwhelm
- not everybody wants to be housed together with others
- No support services
- Zoning or insurance issues
- Where is the funding coming from? What do we do with condemned buildings?
- Costs – renovations to code & for operation
- will cost money to renovate
- too expensive – misdirection of funds could be for permanent shelter
- legal liability
- Staffing costs?
- not everyone would want security – result of bad experiences
- If not charged for “rent” it may turn into an issue
- if not city owned would need to work with private owners
- longer stays

What next five steps should the City take to implement this solution?

- Housing in the Armory at night and out by 7:00 am
  - Provide security & showers
- Building behind the Legion behind the parliament in James Bay has an empty building with three floors and rooms as well as a bike rack in basement.
- consult with people who would be living the solution & people in the neighborhood
- Examine what has worked elsewhere? e.g. Vancouver “Out of the Rain”, Denmark cohousing
- scan of possible funders at all levels including governments, businesses, tax payers
  - bump up funding for existing housing
  - private/public partnership
  - \$11 Regional Affordable Housing Strategy
  - Winnipeg’s program “Change for the better”
- Look for small buildings to avoid security issues
- What buildings are currently empty?
- Inventory Potential Buildings to Use (both public and private)
- Inventory all unused buildings
  - Community consultation
- determine locations
- identify viable property
- Meet with owners of vacant spaces
- Look at potential to turn space into long term solution
- Cattle call for people to discover building stock in the City of Victoria lower rent of rental units
  - Empty schools
  - Multi use buildings
- find location
- Acquire the use of old care homes

- Identify sites
- Find buildings already equipped with beds so there is no need of major upgrades
  - Storage
  - Kitchen facilities
  - Bathrooms
  - Longer hours
- Suitable location
- Identify the buildings – start with government buildings (so we don't need millions to buy private hotels)
- Acquire the buildings
- Change the zoning to allow for housing
- Rezone all commercial to commercial with residential on top
- Support for transitional services
  - needs to be more than 30 days
  - outreach services (ongoing, responsive, preventative)
  - reducing red tape/meet people where they're at)
  - engage/consistent & dedicated
- Better/more comprehensive staffing for current & future facilities for support services
- Staff the Building – support services – focus on safety
- staffing/security
- set up support services
- support services
- Ensure support services will be there
- Identify support services/partners
- Look at what other cities are doing & see what models work
  - Gathering Place in Vancouver
- Provide storage day & night
  - bags or carts
- negotiate housing incentives with big contractors
- Incentives
  - investments as part of rental payment for positive outcomes
- Tax breaks to encourage renovation of buildings for this purpose
- Canvas for donated materials & volunteers
- Encourage businesses (through tax write-offs) to donate food & others will follow
- Offer a density bonus to owners that have these buildings that are slated for demolition
- Seek cooperation from owners of buildings not owned by City of Victoria
  - Give owners tax breaks
  - Allow city to lease the buildings
- Reduction in property taxes
- Reopen Youth Custody Centre
- Collaborate discussion with regulations



- Funding
- Funding?
- Where is funding coming from?
- Funding
- Come up with a plan for costs to fix/run buildings
- Identify Partners: which agencies will run it once it is set up?
- Identify who needs the shelter? Youth? Seniors?
- Move the people in based on needs – physical disabilities, families, elderly
- identify the highest need for sheltering & begin there
- What type of shelter is needed? Shelter must suit the needs of the target group (mental health, pets, etc.)
- Pilot demonstration project
- Engage future residents
  - Feedback loop MUST be present
- education to change attitudes to get rid of NIMBYs
- City or CRD to set up a department to help address solutions/problems
- look for funding
- secure funding
- guidelines/rules for conduct
- develop rules
- create a code of conduct
- Build a community education program
- Ensure the building is safe to occupy
- make big lockers for storage
- A place for storage
- registry/organized – employment opportunities
- respect
- shipping containers like in Campbell River

Which organizations, if any, should the City collaborate and partner with to implement this solution?

- Federal government
- Residents
- Rich people
- Regional resident contributions
- developer contributions
- hire peers/navigators – people who have been there
- Provincial & federal governments
- Cool Aid
- BC Housing/Pacifica
- Trades Association

- VIHA/street nurses
- Ministry Canada
- SOLID
- AIDS VI
- Coalition to end homelessness
- Committee to end homelessness
- Habitat for Humanity
- Royal LePage Shelter Foundation
- HeroWork
- HeroWork
- HeroWork
- Commercial Realtors Association
- Dandelion Society
- DVBA
- Our Place
- AVI, Cool Aid, Chinese Benevolent Society, Academic institutions (e.g. UVic), Art organizations, Art Gallery (fundraiser), CMHC, Venue for music to raise money (e.g. The World, Shambala)
- CRD and other municipalities in region
- Homeless Nation
- Solidarity Victoria
- MSDS
- Red Cross

Is there anything else you would like the city to consider about this proposed solution?

- Construct a camp with trailers or small rooms that is maintained by residents
- "Green" upgrades to building
- green technologies
- residents complain about noise/crowd
- must consult neighborhoods
- underground shelters
- Underground shelters
- 'to go' lunches
- Personal spaces a must
- space dividers for sense of privacy and ownership
- dividers between residents
- close to downtown
- Free bus passes
- needs to be safe, accessible, warm, clean

- Start by renovating kitchen and bathrooms, feed occupants good food and give them opportunity to learn relevant trades. Once trained, have skilled occupants begin to convert old/unused buildings into shelters.
- Qualified tradespersons, e.g. plumbers, electricians, and/or carpenters can apprentice homeless people while they're working on converting existing buildings to new shelters.
- Experienced apprentices can pass on their skills and knowledge to other shelter occupants.
- Employment training for the homeless can be provided while the vacant housing is being rehabilitated
- Shelters need to provide basic necessities; be safe and stable environments. Temporary shelters cannot be places of chaos.
- City of Victoria could renovate empty or unused motels into temporary shelters.
- Portables – drag and drop
- Shelters should be indoors, allow pets & support services should be available
- Could run shelter like coop/hostel & allow dwellers to do chores
- Lease out empty warehouses for sleeping shelters
- City of Victoria could renovate empty or unused motels into temporary shelters
- Vacant Hotels for low income
- Put trailers in private lots & lease/rent
- Why does an old hotel need to be a short term solution? Could definitely be a long term solution!
- City Parkades (at least one) with litter patrol, etc.
- Think about making temporary housing solution that are reusable once there is a more permanent solution (e.g. ATCO Trailers could be used now and moved to a permanent site when available)
- In Calgary: shelter for 1100 people with a bus to pick up/drop off to & from shelter, access to shampoo, kitchen facilities, beds & 24 hour storage
- Several people liked Calgary Shelter in warehouse in industrial area
- Look beyond Victoria's borders
- One person has a great design for mobile temporary housing
  - could sponsor a design/build contest (like the Gates Foundation does)
- Any design needs to accommodate everyday positions: stand, lie, sit
- Housing needs to meet the needs of the people who are being housed & needs are varied
- Transitional services to help people reenter society
- There are so many empty buildings that you could fix up one of them & house people while others are being worked on – like we rotated the high schools that needed work
- building community is paramount
- Housing for couples
- Council members to stay in shelter to see what the experience is like.
- smaller rent should be charged – create sense of ownership
- Rent must be charged for the betterment of the community

- fee for use of the space to be implemented
- Need a variety of housing for a variety of people
- Start by renovating kitchen and bathrooms, feed occupants good food and give them opportunity to learn relevant trades. Once trained, have skilled occupants begin to convert old/unused buildings into shelters.
- Qualified tradespersons, e.g. plumbers, electricians, and/or carpenters can apprentice homeless people while they're working on converting existing buildings to new shelters.
- Homeless could work on the buildings, and receive a credit for rent in future for work done
- By providing an opportunity for the homeless to work & fix up the buildings they'll be living in, you can provide them with life skills and experience
- Experienced apprentices can pass on their skills and knowledge to other shelter occupants.
- Shelters need to provide basic necessities; be safe and stable environments. Temporary shelters cannot be places of chaos.
- Get funding from Cool Aid and other community services to rent churches that have gyms or basements to put people in
- Have fundraisers to raise the funds to get the money to do all of the proposed solutions
- There should be high capacity using existing buildings – resulting in high numbers of beds
- Lobby the Provincial Government
- Engage with service providers to offer support, counseling, harm reduction, medical services, etc.
- Streamline the process for applying for existing short-term housing. The process is difficult to navigate and long
- Homeless individuals are diverse. We need a better system for categorizing need so people with addiction issues are not put with those who are out of work and need a place to stay.
- need to understand the “homeless” are made up of different types of people/situations that all need to be helped and housed
  - users
  - clean
  - couples
  - with pets
- make a coordinated effort to accommodate everyone's needs including couples
- Facilitate a donation of materials by the private sector
- Provide a starter kit
- More women's shelters
- Safe & secure bathrooms for all
- Support for jobs
- Extend the hours in parks or eliminate the hours completely
- Government subsidies or incentives for private owners to use empty buildings
- MUST plug into existing programs
- Need secure storage for day & night
- close to downtown so no transportation services will be needed

## **5. Funding to create new shelters or temporary housing facilities**

Why does your group think this is a good solution (rationale)? What are the pros and cons?

### **PROS**

- Fewer people on the street
- Security
- Health
- Provides a home to live in that is affordable and clean
- Housing needs to be developed in conjunction with key support services and amenities
- Housing should have an “open space” where residents can share skills and create community
- Housing should be open to everyone – should not exclude anyone
- heightened ability to fit needs of many different situations
- This would make a HOME for people – not just a place to sleep
- It's not a tent – more permanent and stable
- will build a very healthy sense of community

### **CONS**

- Where will the money come from
- Too much bureaucracy to get it
- People have given up instead of opting for shelter
- Housing costs money – can be expensive
- Construction takes time and can have delays
- There is a current lack of government funding to support housing
- Taxpayers do not seem willing to offset funding through tax increases
- you're never going to reach all those in need
- possibly no pets allowed

What next five steps should the City take to implement this solution?

- Provide incentives to building owners
- poll citizens
- Find somewhere for 24 hour lockers/storage
- Plan for who comes together to manage properties so that they are ready to shelter people asap
  - Must have good managers recruited
- Determine where the financial support is coming from
  - Government
  - Charitable organizations
- Ensure that CRD borrows \$50 million to build housing
- Create a safe injection site
- Create a facility like “Insight” –exists in Vancouver
- Develop a community kitchen

- Build housing in conjunction with key services that provide health care (mental, physical, spiritual), cooking facilities, bathrooms, etc.
- Develop temporary housing that allows users to stay at least 1-3 weeks...not just nightly. Need more stability

Which organizations, if any, should the City collaborate and partner with to implement this solution?

- Developers must provide low income housing (30%)
- Our Place
- St. Vincent
- HeroWork
- Kool Aid
- Salvation Army
- Reverend Al
- Safety & security services
- Rainbow family movement can provide governance model for other organizations (participant was reluctant to further elaborate on what Rainbow Family is?)
- Partner with existing housing organizations and service providers
- Approach solutions with integration with existing organizations and their programs rather than creating new programs or groups
- Establish new organizations that better serve those that are underrepresented i.e. Aboriginal population

Is there anything else you would like the city to consider about this proposed solution?

- Construction Camp – houses for 10-30 people
- turn it into Affordable housing
- individual rooms & showers
- side by side mobile homes that are easily moveable
- ATCO trailers – light and moveable for fewer people
- Shipping trailers – heavy, expensive to move
- build tiny homes
- Like Quixote community
- personal 8x8 sheets (own space) on church property
- common area for showers/washrooms
- cooking facilities – could be dangerous
- Gated
- Welcoming – window boxes
- People who have pets
  - shelter that has a section for kennels
- People who want to shelter together – low income housing
- families get priorities

- homeless understand basic survival
- use shopping mall parking lots/parkades
- Health & safety & security in facilities
- Coordinated referral to shelter beds
- Priority to have low income housing rather than sheltering solution.
- Low income housing with mental health support
- Partner with existing vacant motels to provide housing that can be rented on a weekly basis that can be rented for \$325/month which is the typical housing allowance.
- Weekly rentals provide greater stability
- Motel should have other amenities and supports such as phone, wifi, communal computer, communal kitchen, tv room
- Provide internet access, mobile phone access, and free Wi-Fi in shelters so occupants can use online training programs and search for jobs.
- Homeless should be allowed to stay up to 6 months in a shelter.
- Involve those living in the shelter in improving its physical condition. Train shelter occupants in trades such as carpentry and plumbing, and put them to work improving existing shelters or building new ones.
- Use unclaimed rental allowances toward funding for better shelters.
- Decriminalize homelessness, allow cooking and sleeping outdoors everywhere in the city.
- Use money from the BC lottery corporation to fund new shelters.
- Create videos of success stories of people who have found a better life after living in a shelter. Use these videos as advertisements to inspire more funding/donations from the public.
- Create a tax on all estate inheritances that requires a portion of funds to go towards local shelters.
- Allow couples to share rooms, would reduce number of required beds in shelters
- Provide specific shelters for seniors, people with mental health issues, and people with addiction problems.
- Design competition to get the community involved
- Cluster units

**6. Supervised sheltering sites on private or public land (not in a City park) with support services.**

Why does your group think this is a good solution (rationale)? What are the pros and cons?

- The support/transition services are necessary to help people who need help & want help
- need a low barrier option – easiest on private/public vacant land
- the parks are overloaded with users already & putting sheltering there impacts them even more
- The land is there and we can offer a short-term solution without having to build something. But the site needs to be supervised! Supervision brings security & support offers hope for creating a plan to move forward.

**PROS**

- Government not on financial hook for land costs
- Will cut down costs of services that maintain parks
- Better improved relations with neighborhoods & Policing groups
- Makes use of vacant/available land
- Low capital cost
- controlled area for each person

**CONS**

- If we use land outside of the city, we would need to offer shuttle buses to & from the location
- Finding host location will be difficult
  - o also difficult to secure & supply washrooms/sanitation
- Would perhaps be only temporary
- concern that it would become PERMENENT – no positive movement forward
- tents are not the solution

What next five steps should the City take to implement this solution?

- ask the community who will be accessing services & the community where services will be located
  - o provide triage
- Education
  - o Go out into the community of people who are homeless & people who are housed & figure out a way for everyone to communicate with one another – build community
- ensure transportation for people to/from services
- ensure storage of belongings
- scan of appropriate public/private land
- Make contact with possible property owners/management companies
- Farming communities that house and feed homeless that work towards providing to their own soup kitchens and farmers markets



- Farming communities that allow homeless to work for food & shelter & provide for the community's soup kitchen & farmers markets
- Reach out to owners of private land to ask if they would be open to leasing their land
- engage private land owners & business community
- not in one location – multiple locations or a rotating schedule
- Buy containers that can easily be transported that have washrooms, showering facilities, potential food stations
- Form a society (charity) so people can donate and get a tax receipt to support these initiatives
- City provide free civic services (sewer line, storm drain, etc.) on private property that is being done & speedily adjust zoning and permitting to support this.
- Secured day storage for people so they can store stuff while at work or looking for work.
- Define terms “What does temporary mean?”

Which organizations, if any, should the City collaborate and partner with to implement this solution?

- VicPD
- Commissionaires
- Community Micro housing
- logging camps/oil & gas camps that are dismantling
- United Way
- CRD
- The Victoria Foundation
- The Lions
- Mountain Equipment Coop

Is there anything else you would like the city to consider about this proposed solution?

- If the City of Victoria comes up with a plan (like Maple Ridge) there's a better chance that it will get funded by federal & provincial governments
- housing levy
- rent control
- grants for 2<sup>nd</sup> suites
- how do we leverage the system to that housing stock stays affordable & people don't tip into homelessness
- Leased land between Sidney & Victoria with regular special buses to and from downtown
- Individual storage
- Rotate the responsibilities to ease pressure and share the responsibility regionally throughout the CRD – with support services
- People on disability can spend two weeks at any provincial park. You can go from park to park. Could the City assist with some transportation?
- Buy parking lots or other lots and designate under OCP as long term Olympic village style houses – small units

- shipping containers
- Can the city set aside some city parkades for tents opt containers to make housing
- Relocate modular units in parking lots
- Can the city speak to View Royal to see if the forest around VGH can be utilized for camping
- There needs to be a distinction between homelessness fueled by bad luck & loss of employment vs. those who are struggling with addiction
- Maybe have a design competition for what the camp will look like.
- Space for those who are clean/sober
- Pay “rent”
- Possible energy exchange
  - maybe 8 hours per week
    - gardening
    - cleaning
    - organizing
    - building
- Make it a welcoming community park
  - If residents of the site help maintain
  - growing food – have their own “market”
  - gardens used to sell flowers
- construction camps to house 10-30 people
- Lease parking lots for either cars or tents – leave by 7:30-8:00
- Quixote Community in US
  - personal 8x8 sheds (own space) on property
  - common area for showers/washrooms/cooking facilities
  - gated
  - Welcoming – gardens, etc.
- Any housing needs to allow for pets
  - overnight kennel on sight
- build units to utilize space
  - hexagons, stacking
- safety is #1 concern
- Recognize needs of different parts of the homeless community – addictions, nationalities, mental health, seniors, youth, etc.
- must have some sort of fee for the housing
- Offer some sort of food services

**7. *One supervised sheltering site in one City park with support services***

NO FEEDBACK ON THIS TOPIC

**8. Supervised sheltering site on more than one City park with support services.**

Why does your group think this is a good solution (rationale)? What are the pros and cons?

- Propose to have it in a mixture of parks and private land

**PROS**

- Cliques form and there is a natural leader that emerges to watch out for everyone
- Sense of community – not raiding tents
- Some prefer outdoors to indoors
- No bed bugs
- Your own personal area
- Does not antagonize a particular single neighborhood
- Spreading out in parks does not take much space from any single park.
- Users could supervise
  - sense of ownership if it is somewhere they feel they belong
- Useful for people who are traveling or only need temporary shelter
  - operate like a hostel

**CONS**

- Curfews
- Availability/hours
- Tear down and carry your stuff all day
- Not having storage
- Exposed to weather
- inconsistent bathroom access
- damage to parks
- negatives feedback/reaction from neighborhoods
- Limited access to water, toilets, etc.
- no place for storage

What next five steps should the City take to implement this solution?

- Inventory of parks
- Choose parks carefully – affluent neighborhoods less hospitable
- Who supplies tents and bedding
- Ask Victorians to donate tents, tarps, mattresses & sleeping bags
- Carefully look at hours of access to make sure to give time to set up and tear down

Which organizations, if any, should the City collaborate and partner with to implement this solution?

- Taps
- Rees
- St. Vincent

- Kool Aid
- Community for blankets
- Local businesses – Capital Iron – safety supplies

Is there anything else you would like the city to consider about this proposed solution?

- Portland tent city formed a council that was elected by the tent city.
- Washrooms need to be close to tent area
- Park workers are not informed about the rules – they must be briefed to understand the rules
- A need for security and policing
- Better lighting in parks at night
- Better lighting – Solar?
- People who are getting out of addiction will need counseling and support
- Headquarters
- The tent city creates community, neighbors
- Could be in vacant lots instead of parks (space with the gravel in Beacon Hill Park)
- Perhaps more outreach workers instead of just police. Or police officers that specialize in community outreach.
- House boats – “Floating Village”
- House boats
- Better Storage facilities
  - 24 hours
  - Supervision
- Public phone for help (free)

### ***Other Potential Solutions:***

- Rent subsidies, welfare reform, more rent supplements
- Welfare Reform
- Instead of housing as a first step, maybe focus on more & different support services. Literacy aide, verbal explanations, more common discussions
- Create an event to help raise money
- Need an accessible and affordable treatment centre on Vancouver Island
- Vancouver has a tier system to a project called “out of the rain” a three tier system
  - First: warehouse on Seymour St.
  - Second: 2 level bunk bed and common area. longer stay – weekly honour system. Seymour St.
  - Third: 8 story old hotel with rooms, long stay – month, 2 months. Each floor with a mini kitchen and weekend fun like burger/hotdog night.
- A supervised safe injection site could be put in the lower parkade of the Richard Blanshard Building at the corner of Pandora & Blanshard. This building has a lot of wasted space right now.
- Suspend penalties for camping beyond allowed times in an area FOR NOW.
- I don’t see the point of one solution accomplishing the task; yet with the diversity of your target group a combination of some of these topics would comfortably accomplish it. Combining 2, 4, 6, & 7.

### **(Other) Concept of floating subsidies to offset cost of housing**

#### Why does your group think this is a good solution/pros and cons?

- Subsidy is specific to housing.

#### **PROS**

- Allows people the opportunity to live in other areas of the city and region
- Provides extra funding toward housing in addition to monthly housing allowance
- Housing funding can be used for temporary and long-term housing solutions
- Funding goes directly to landlord but is tied to the person
- Funding can be temporary or long-term (lifelong)

#### **CONS**

- Not helpful if only provided temporarily
- There are currently not enough support staff to act as advocates or administrators for the program
- Requires detailed criteria and process – can be confusing
- Not everyone is eligible because of restrictive criteria

#### What are the next five steps that City should take to implement this solution?

- Request Province to increase funding – administered through Pacifica Housing
- Advocate CRD to create or collaborate on a similar floating subsidy program
- Liaise with landlords to help get subsidy applications processed and approved
- Increase the overall total of eligible slots (currently 80 spots with a long wait list)
- Model program exists in Vancouver “[Street to Home](#)”

- City could acquire and provide housing for this program
- Program housing should include family-oriented housing and should be dispersed throughout the region

#### Organizations that the City can partner with to implement solutions

- Pacifica Housing
- Island Health (CASH) – Centralized Access to Supportive Housing
- Our Place Outreach centre

#### Other Comments

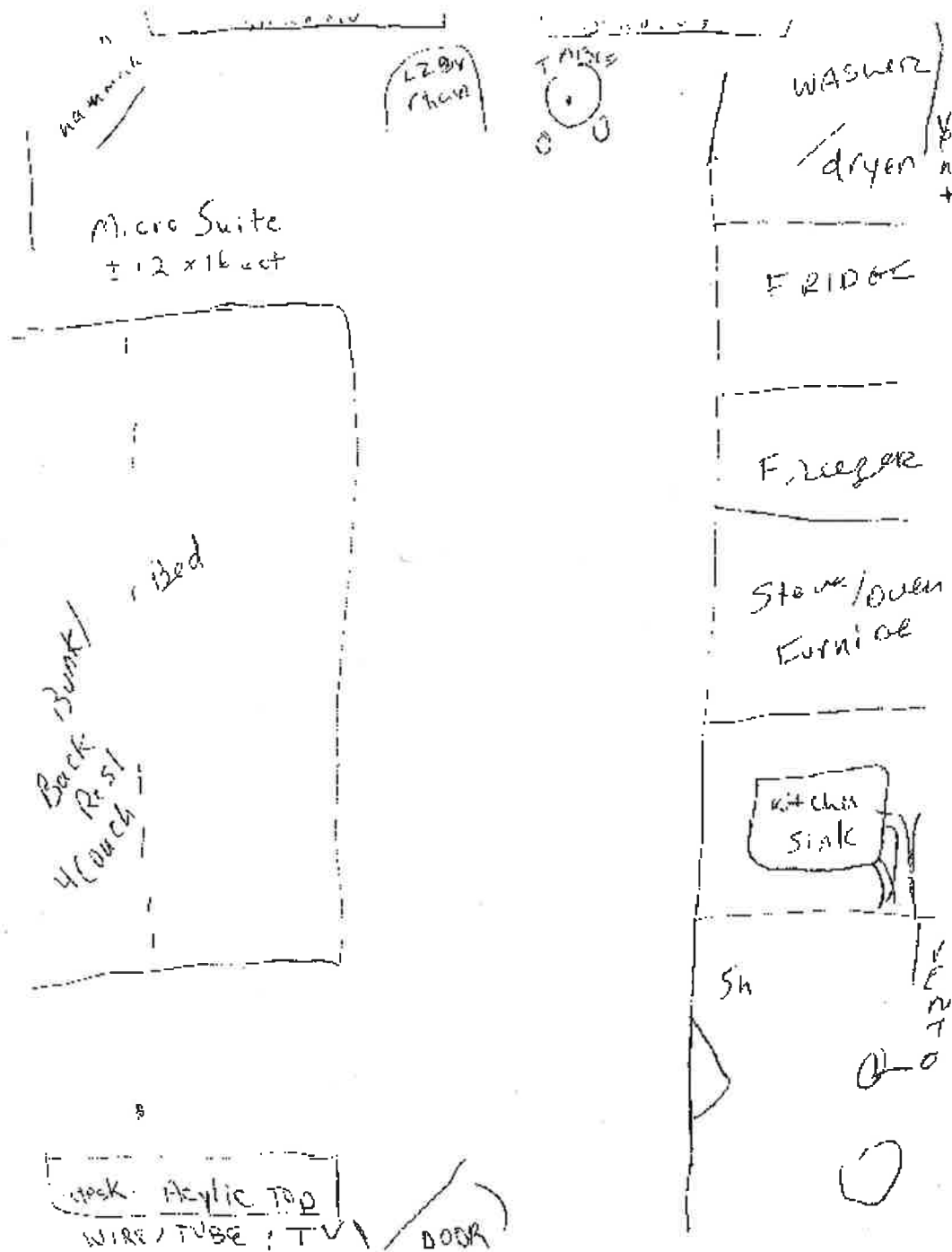
- Floating subsidy program could be used to support Option #2 (Program for residents/organizations to provide shelter in their homes or facilities)
- Option #2 would help to better integrate people without homes into the community
- Need an accessible and affordable treatment centre on Vancouver Island
- Vancouver has a tier system to a project called “out of the rain” a three tier system
  - First: warehouse on Seymour St.
  - Second: 2 level bunk bed and common area. longer stay – weekly honour system. Seymour St.
  - Third: 8 storey old hotel with rooms, long stay – month, 2 months. Each floor with a mini kitchen and weekend fun like burger/hotdog night.
- There should be designated areas in the city where the buildings are restored. They should be fixed up to a level fitting a certain budget. Should be two options for buildings - for people who are actively using, and for people who are wanting to stay sober.
- Housing in the Armory at night and out by 7:00 am
  - Provide security & showers
- Building behind the Legion behind the parliament in James Bay has an empty building with three floors and rooms as well as a bike rack in basement.
- Farming communities that allow homeless to work for food & shelter & provide for the community’s soup kitchen & farmers markets
- A supervised safe injection site could be put in the lower parkade of the Richard Blanshard Building at the corner of Pandora & Blanshard. This building has a lot of wasted space right now.
- Suspend penalties for camping beyond allowed times in an area FOR NOW.

#### **Combining multiple solutions:**

- Sheltering options in public & private land, micro housing, tents, vehicles
- Have multiple options for homeless to cater to their preference
  - Car, tent, micro housing, boats, campers, buses
- A combinational approach can be cost effective and is easily maintained and staffed and would lighten the burden on only ONE solution.
- Our choice is not one, however, is a combination of all

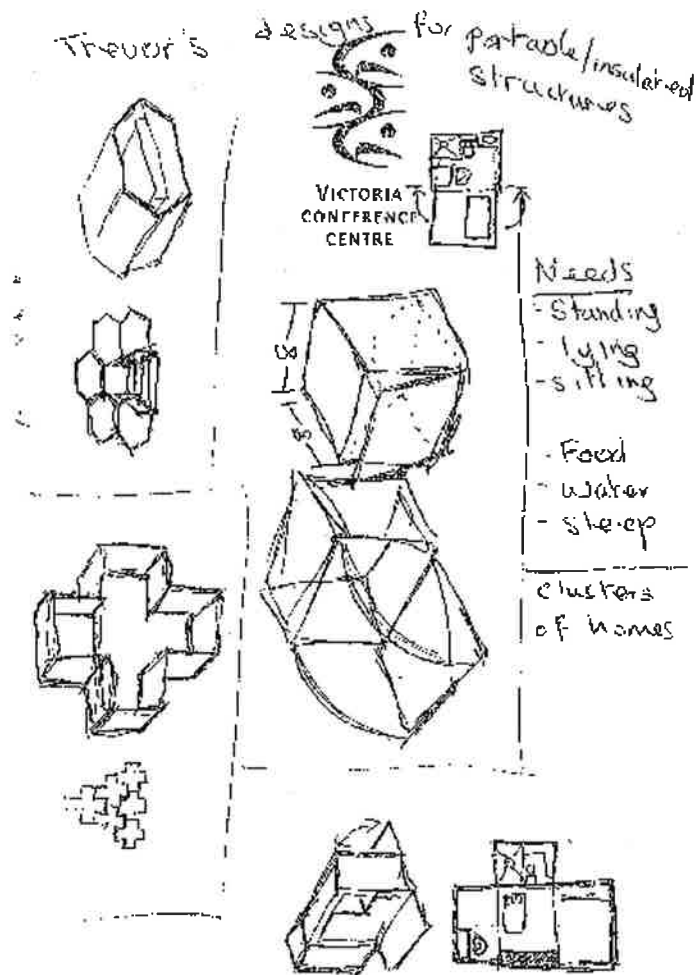
The following pictures were sketched/provided by citizens who attended the workshop. They do not correspond with any specific idea, but are ideas within themselves.

- Idea for a "Micro Suite"





- Idea for portable shelter /micro housing solution



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- **Idea for portable housing**

