

JOINT ACTION REPORT ON HOMELESSNESS AND DOWNTOWN SECURITY


Community Task Force
on Homelessness and
Downtown Security

Greater Moncton Homelessness
Steering Committee

Codiac Regional
RCMP

NOVEMBER 2021

GREATER MONCTON



November 2021

To The Citizens of Greater Moncton

Homelessness and downtown security are two of the most pressing issues facing our community today.

Mental health and addiction issues, lack of affordable housing, crime, and downtown vagrancy and panhandling can only be solved through a collective effort. For the welfare of the vulnerable in our society, and for the protection of our residents, our business community and Moncton's reputation, we need a focused effort involving all stakeholders to respond to this urgent need.

That is why we came together for the recent Community Forum on Homelessness and Downtown Security. The input we received during that day, the follow-up discussions and best practice research we have undertaken, have formed the basis for the Action Plan that follows.

We are pleased to release the following Joint Action Plan on Homelessness and Downtown Security. By bringing together the Task Force on Homelessness and Downtown Security, the Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee, Rising Tide Community Initiatives and the Codiac Regional RCMP, we represent a large cross section of our community that includes not for profits, business and law enforcement. Together, we represent countless frontline organizations who are working to reduce and end homelessness and downtown security issues within our community.

The actions included in this plan will also require additional and ongoing support from the Province of New Brunswick and the Government of Canada to ensure we can address these issues effectively and as quickly as possible.

The task at hand is not unique to Moncton. Every growing city in North America is searching for answers to address these growing challenges. What's become clear is that there is no single answer or one-size-fits-all solution that will solve these problems. The answers will come by working together while not losing sight of the safety and security of our community and the wellbeing of those most vulnerable.

We encourage you to review the action plan and provide any additional comments you might have. As well, if you'd like to get involved in helping to address the issues, contact us at homelessness@ccgm.ca.

While this action plan is only a beginning, we believe it represents the next steps required towards addressing the homelessness and downtown security challenges we are facing in Greater Moncton.

Sincerely,

Community Task Force on Homelessness and Downtown Security
Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee (GMHSC)
Codiac Regional RCMP



**COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
ON HOMELESSNESS AND
DOWNTOWN SECURITY**



Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Member of Parliament
Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe



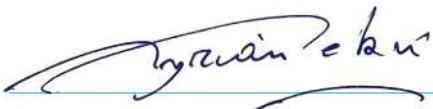
Greg Turner
MLA, Moncton South



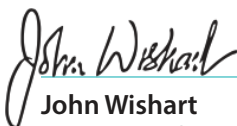
Mayor Dawn Arnold
City of Moncton



Denis Foulem
Downtown Moncton centre-ville Inc.



Myriam Mekni
Rising Tide Community Initiatives Inc.



John Wishart
Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton

**GREATER MONCTON
HOMELESSNESS
STEERING COMMITTEE
(GMHSC)**



Dr. Susan Crouse
Chair, GMHSC,
Medical Director, Salvus Clinic



Marc Belliveau
Harvest House Atlantic



Trevor Goodwin
YMCA Re-Connect

**CODIAC REGIONAL
RCMP**



Superintendent Ron DeSilva
Codiac Regional RCMP

INTRODUCTION

The Community Task Force on Homelessness and Downtown Security was created to mobilize stakeholders and resources to meet the challenge of homelessness and social issues. The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee was created on a foundation that everyone should have access to safe, adequate and affordable housing.

Based on the community input from the Community Forum on Homelessness and Downtown Security held in September, these two organizations, along with the Codiac Regional RCMP, have developed the following Action Plan for Homelessness and Downtown Security.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Throughout this process, the following principles will guide our actions

- We must help people get on the path to recovery
- We will keep learning from best-practices and experiences from other communities and experts to support current and future actions
- We must work together to bridge the gap between existing resources and services providers, and the outcomes we are looking for as a community
- We will need all levels of governments to provide support and resources to create immediate and long-term results.
- Criminal acts will not be tolerated, and consequences must include a path to recovery when appropriate

WHAT WE HEARD AT THE COMMUNITY FORUM AND FROM COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

GENERAL

- Better communication and education are needed around homelessness and downtown security. Most people are unaware of the many initiatives already happening.
- There is a lack of coordination between social service providers and other stakeholders.
- There is no clear entry point to recovery.

SHELTER OPERATIONS

- There is a gap in shelter services. Shelters do not have appropriately trained and resourced staff to operate effectively.
- Mental Health and Addiction Services should be available to provide services in the shelters, delivered by regional health authorities.
- Best practice in many other communities is to have a series of small shelters located throughout a community.

ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES/SUPPORT

- More mental health services and supports need to be accessible where homeless individuals need them (shelters, the street, etc.).
- As treatment for substance addiction differs based upon the type of substance, addiction services such as detox and rehabilitation should be designed to treat the current substances in the community
- Greater Moncton needs more engagement from mental health counsellors.
- A Mental Health Court, with effective release plans, would create an effective diversion pathway for homeless individuals who commit crime due to mental health and addiction issues.

WHAT WE HEARD AT THE COMMUNITY FORUM AND FROM COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

SAFE SUPPLY

- Targeted harm reduction and substance abuse training is needed for community workers.
- Public education and marketing efforts are needed to reduce addictions and substance use stigma.
- Safe supply requires advocacy that highlights the net benefit to communities.

HOUSING FIRST

- Mental Health and Addiction services need to be integrated with supportive housing.
- Staff need the capacity to collect and analyze data required to develop a data-driven Housing First model.
- Community engagement with landlords, the general public and staff should be encouraged.
- There is a need for more affordable housing units

COMPLEX NEEDS

- A feasibility assessment is required to deliver a cost-effective and sustainable complex needs pilot.
- Wrap-around services are necessary for high-acuity individuals.
- A pilot monitoring 20 complex needs cases can measure success.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- RCMP needs more visible engagement with the homelessness issue.
- Police need to better understand local context.
- Police need to work more with the justice system to expedite cases, ensure release plans for individuals with specialized needs and call for a Mental Health Court.

ACTION ITEMS

The Community Task Force on Homelessness and Downtown Security, the Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee (GMHSC), Rising Tide Community Initiatives, Codiac Regional RCMP and others will continue to work together on the following items as the first step action items. These are designed to lay a foundation for continued advancement towards zero functional homelessness in Greater Moncton.

TASK FORCE, GMHSC

GOVERNANCE

1. The Task Force will lead action on advocacy, funding and communications.
2. The Task Force and the GMHSC will seek immediate funding to hire the Action Plan Managing Director to drive integration and action from all stakeholders.
3. The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton and Downtown Moncton centre-ville Inc. will identify a business community co-chair for the GMHSC.
4. The Task Force and GMHSC will determine long-term organization for managing the action plan by March 31, 2022.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

SHELTER OPERATIONS

5. The Task Force and the GMHSC will ask the Province of New Brunswick to provide in-shelter mental health and addictions support.
6. The City of Moncton, through its funding commitment, will ensure La Maison Nazareth works with the Action Plan Managing Director towards improving shelter operations and services.
7. The City of Moncton, through its funding commitment, will ensure La Maison Nazareth participates in the coordinated access system.
8. The Task Force and GMHSC will advocate for future shelters capacity to be smaller and more dispersed.

ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES/SUPPORT

9. The Task Force and the GMHSC will ask the Province of New Brunswick to provide in-shelter mental health and addictions wrap around support.
10. The Task Force will ask the Province of New Brunswick to create a Mental Health Court in Moncton that includes clear release plans for individuals.
11. The Task Force and GMHSC will ask the Province of New Brunswick to launch a pilot treatment program for crystal methamphetamine (crystal meth).

ACTION ITEMS

SAFE SUPPLY

12. Building on the Ensemble Overdose Prevention Site initiative, the Task Force will undertake a public education campaign to support permanent safe supply.
13. The Task Force and the GMHSC will call on the Province of New Brunswick to launch a comprehensive study on safe injection sites.

HOUSING FIRST

14. Rising Tide Community Initiatives will identify timelines for housing people, including number of homes, number of individuals taken off the By-Names List, targets for number of people housed with wrap around services by December 31, 2021, June 30 and December 31, 2022.
15. The GMHSC will provide recommendations on who should be placed in housing based on high acuity individuals.
16. The Task Force, the GMHSC, and Rising Tide Community Initiatives will work with the tri-communities to adopt a standard inclusionary zoning by law that will generate more affordable housing units.

COMPLEX NEEDS

17. The Action Plan Managing Director will work with the City of Moncton to launch the Complex Needs Pilot by early 2022 with the goal of helping the 20 highest needs individuals get off the street. The City of Moncton has allocated \$200,000 towards this initiative.
18. The Task Force will submit a proposal for additional funding for the Complex Needs Pilot from the Province of New Brunswick.

ACTION ITEMS

LAW ENFORCEMENT

19. Codiac Regional RCMP will increase the size of the Community Policing Unit (CPU) and will relocate the CPU to a separate Main Street location by the first quarter 2022 including 24/7 downtown zone walking patrol.
20. The City of Moncton will add more by-law enforcement officers.
21. Codiac Regional RCMP will launch the Nexus “Top Five” Program before the end of 2021 and will work with stakeholders to reduce the process time between arrest and sentencing.
22. Codiac Regional RCMP will provide additional resources (social workers) to the Mobile Health Crisis Unit (MHCU).
23. Codiac Regional RCMP and City of Moncton By-law Enforcement Division will work towards stronger integration of the CPU, by-law enforcement and Public Works.
24. Codiac Regional RCMP and City of Moncton By-law Enforcement Division will examine ways to better enforce the Shopping Cart By-Law.
25. Codiac Regional RCMP will add its voice to the Task Force to advocate for a Mental Health Court and safe storage lockers.
26. Codiac Regional RCMP will place all specialized units connected with homelessness under a dedicated inspector.
27. The Task Force and GMHSC will call on Corrections Canada to develop residential release plans that ensure support for offenders being reintroduced into the Greater Moncton community.

NEXT STEPS

- Complete the funding application and hire the Action Plan Managing Director
- Begin discussions with the Province of New Brunswick on mental health and addictions support for shelters and the creation of a Mental Health Court
- Increase the downtown presence of the Codiac Regional RCMP
- Launch the Complex Needs and Nexus Pilot Programs
- The Task Force, GMHSC, Rising Tide Community Initiatives and Codiac Regional RCMP, with the support of the Action Report Managing Director, will report to the community at two-month intervals on the progress of these commitments.

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