

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Everyone Should Have a Home: 2-Part Planning Meetings on Homelessness**

**March 2, 2017 Duncan, BC** – On Monday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island, in collaboration with Cowichan Mental Health and Substance Use Collective Impact Team, will be hosting a 2-part planning meeting at the Ramada Silver Bridge in Duncan, BC.

“In November and December 2016, many organizations came together to explore the issue of homelessness in the Cowichan region. We are now coming back together to design a process for how to work together more effectively to address homelessness, and to build the foundations for a community plan.”

The morning session, ‘Forum: Pulling it all Together’ from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM will be facilitated by Cowichan Mental Health and Substance Use Collective Impact Team. It will be organized into three parts including:

- 1) History – What has gone on before today – Building on our strengths
- 2) Current State – What we are facing today
- 3) Future – What we want to see moving forward – Developing the structure

For the afternoon session, Cameron Keller of Kaleidoscope Consulting will facilitate ‘Creating a Multi-Year Community Plan to Address Homelessness’ from 12:45 PM – 4:00 PM on best practices for moving forward with a community plan (<http://www.vancouverexecutivecoaching.ca/about-cam/>).

The federal government, through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), is funding a 12-month planning project to bring local agencies together to develop a multi-year plan to address homelessness in the community. Cam Keller is the consultant hired to help facilitate the community in the creation of that plan.

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