



# VICTORIA ABORIGINAL STREET COMMUNITY: VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

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Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness  
Sharing Circle Held At Our Place Society, Victoria BC  
April 5, 2016

# Victoria Aboriginal Street Community: Vision for Our Future

At a Sharing Circle on April 5, 2016, Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi facilitated a discussion with 30 Aboriginal people from the Victoria Street Community. They were invited to attend to learn the results of the HPS Survey and to give input into a **Vision for Our Future**.

The participants were asked where they want to be within three years, what barriers they might face, and what would help them on their journey forward.

## In Three Years I Want To:

- Have a better life
- Be housed
- Be employed
- Have ID and my status card
- Not have to feel like I'm going to be kicked out at any time
- Have opportunities to get emotionally reunited with my family
- Have native people to work with me; First Nations advocates and frontline workers in all organizations
- Have self-help programs that are easy to access.



## Barriers that may arise:

- The inflexibility of some of the current housing and shelters. If you miss a curfew you are kicked out. When you have addictions that's a problem
- The Police. We need Aboriginal police or an Aboriginal liaison
- Handicap people have extra challenges
- Transportation and money for transit
- It's a challenge that the Victoria Native Friendship Centre is too far out of the downtown core
- Not having places to go. I am an artist but there's no place to do my art
- The rules around one person per one bedroom; as a single person I will never have enough money to rent if I can't have a roommate
- Racism and discrimination by the rental property managers; it starts off good on the phone but doesn't end up well; they need cultural training
- Being given the royal run-around; go here, go there and then to be told, "I can't help you, go there..."
- Hygiene; having a place to get cleaned up – there are long waits at Our Place
- Shelter diets. I have a dairy allergy, and some are vegetarians. Sometimes you don't eat
- Hotels and shelters with bed bugs.

## Supports that would help:

- Definitely more subsidized housing
- Continue the Aboriginal support at Our Place – renew his contract!
- To have someone give us a kick in the ass sometimes about healthcare, to give us that reminder to take care of our health, especially those with diabetes
- Aboriginal nursing students to help us
- Care packages with things like a backpack and sleeping bag
- Improved communications with VNFC outreach worker
- Reverend Al has a food van that he helps people with. It would be so good to have an **Indian Food Van** with foods like bannock and fish
- To have our own one-on-one advocate; someone who will get to know us, create a “life plan” and then help us to achieve it
- Advocates for children-in-care and families too. The philosophy is to bring families together but this is not happening
- We need shelters on the reserves so that we can go home and wait there until there is housing for us
- Help with addiction at the street level
- A mini-storage place for all of our stuff
- Bus tickets to get to appointments
- A place to go during the day that’s appropriate - I’m on the street and my kids are on the street, and they have to stay at a youth shelter and I stay at another shelter. When we see each other during the day the only place we have to go is to sit in the park and that is just too hard
- A hotline
- A place to make phone calls
- A shared Facebook page so that we can communicate with our families back home or to each other, and sometimes just to let people know we’re okay or not okay
- Share this information (survey results) with others so they understand us better
- A monthly calendar with the Community Building events that also includes contact names and numbers for our advocates.

