

# 'Under One Roof'

## Our Plan:

Located in the heart of Squamish, B.C. 'Under One Roof' will be a vibrant community hub and creative housing alternative for Squamish Helping Hands participants and Sea to Sky residents struggling with homelessness, marginalization and low-income. It will be an opportunity for community and agency partners to provide collaborative services and programs creating collective and individualized solutions for wellness and independence. Participants will be able to access on-site amenities including a variety of food services, job training opportunities, specialized workers, mental health and health practitioners, and individualized case planning.

Our intention is that all food programs come together 'Under One Roof'; with a local food-recovery system in place and new partnerships that can combine resources, we can substantially impact the problem of hunger in Sea to Sky. Having fresh foods more available, the onsite 'grocery style' Food Bank will make accessing healthy food easier for all community members in need, while avoiding stigma. Participants and community members alike will be encouraged to join in programs of interest such as Gardening, Food Education, Wellness, Recycle Bicycle and Volunteer opportunities, reducing barriers within the community.

At 'Under One Roof' participants will reside in safe and affordable housing with built in supports aimed at increasing capacity and contribution, encouraging participants to move from dependency to independence.

Key components of this project will be:

## 1. HEALTH & HOUSING:

Emergency shelter beds, transitional living beds, addiction beds, next step housing, all built in partnership with the BC Housing Authority, and the Municipality of Squamish to provide solutions for homeless and hard-to-house persons in the Sea to Sky corridor. Services include the possibility of medical services on site, direct access to clinicians including mental health and addictions workers, public health support and other wellness practitioners in dedicated office spaces. The facility will help meet the need for affordable housing for people with zero to low incomes. In partnership with our 'Under One Roof' program non-profits, real solutions to tough problems are available.

## 2. FOOD RECOVERY & DELIVERY:

A community food hub will facilitate community dinners, cooking classes, community kitchen programs, food education, gardening and other related opportunities. A grocery-style Corner Store model will allow Food Bank participants to shop with dignity. The food rescue program will use a refrigerated truck to pick up and redistribute rescued food throughout Sea to Sky reducing waste even further. Existing food programs like 2Squares (hot meals), Food4Kids (School Lunches), Food2Go (brown bag meals) and Food2Grow (maintaining gardens for food and therapy) will continue to support the community. Food

hampers will be delivered to those with mobility concerns throughout the community. An on-site social enterprise provides hot meal service and job training.

### **3. WELLNESS & WORK:**

On-site social enterprises, such as a food services program and a laundromat, are designed to provide work experience, skill creation as well as revenue to support the in-house non-profit programming. Exchange programs (where clients who are capable will work to contribute in some way), volunteer opportunities, onsite employment and training programs will be available for people with barriers and limitations. On-site Wellness classes will also be offered to support healthy outcomes and self awareness.

### **4. COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY:**

Clients will be able to make immediate connections with the aim addressing needs as quickly and efficiently as possible and, ideally, to create flow a flow through opportunity to best options without delay and associated risks. They will be referred quickly to a case worker, partner agencies on-site, outreach services, Drop-In support including meals, bathrooms, on-site laundromat, showers, lockers, computer/phone access, survival supplies, information and referrals in a safe and welcoming environment. Volunteer and Exchange Program placement will be made with partnering agencies, including all major community program providers, and space will be made available for all types of barriers and needs. Under One Roof will be a place where everyone belongs.

## **PARTNERED IN 'UNDER ONE ROOF'**



### **Squamish Helping Hands Society**

#### **Shelter Beds/Access to Professional Assistance/Food/Transitional Housing**

*“An end to homelessness and hunger in our community”.*

**A**t *‘Under One Roof’* over 50 beds will provide shelter to the homeless and under-housed in Squamish. *Squamish Helping Hands Society* is a registered non-profit that currently provides safe, reliable emergency shelter with access to phone, internet, washrooms and shower facilities. Clients receive individualized support from a network of nurses, mental health professionals and case workers who assist them in their transition from homeless to housed. Transitional housing provides a bridge for those who are considered ‘hard to house’ with amazing results. A home truly does provide a place for the heart to reside.

**“24 hours a day, 7 days a week, we are always here to welcome you home until your home is found”.**

Helping Hands is more than just a shelter, we are an exchange. We believe that everyone has something to offer. Clients are encouraged to give back through meaningful work that enables the agency to focus on keeping food on the table.

There are an estimated 200 homeless people in the Squamish area. Every day, Helping Hands prepares 65-120 hot meals for over 100 people, rescues 500-600 pounds of food from the landfill and redistributes the food through a variety of food programs including Food4Families. - 5 to 10 boxes of food to community organizations, seniors and families who need it. In just one year, we serve an average of 35,000 meals - that's more than the entire population of the Sea to Sky corridor. We also provide 12,660 brown bag school lunches and well over 3500 shelter stays, all powered by 3289 volunteer hours.

In ‘Under One Roof’, the effective reach and power of this highly successful program becomes amplified and enhanced with new strategic partnerships that ensure all basic human needs are met on-site with compassion, collaboration and cooperation. The new facility will feature transitional and low-barrier housing and affordable housing units and will be in downtown Squamish, near the current Helping Hands location at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main.



## **The Squamish Food Bank Society**

### **Food Bank Distribution/Food Recovery & Distribution/Food Security**

*“We provide safe and secure access to food for all in our community”*

The *Squamish Food Bank Society* is a registered charity that is looking to establish true food security for low income and those in need in Squamish. The ‘Under One Roof’ location will substantially improve the Food Bank program by providing space for a ‘Corner Store’ shopping experience, increase accessibility with a more central location and providing an opportunity for daily programming. Using ‘recovered’ food supplies with dedicated storage facilities and recovery truck, the program feeds more with healthier food and helps move clients from dependency to independence in partnership with other program providers in ‘Under One Roof’.

Currently the Squamish Food Bank offers three food bank days a month that provides 100 + hampers to 250 clients with the help of 28 volunteers. Families, children, seniors and under employed use the food bank every month, however, a remote location currently presents barriers to access. The new location will allow for increased food recovery programming, maximizes food distribution to those in the community with the greatest need and minimizes food waste. Shared resources will bring down costs of program delivery, while increasing access. Multiple resources on site encourage food bank clients to access other programs that can improve their lives.

Shared commercial-grade kitchen facilities also allow for food educational programming for clients and the public through community kitchens programming, and other food training programs such as basic canning or food preservation. The Squamish Food Bank helps anchor ‘Under One Roof’ as a community hub.



## **Cutting Barriers Employment & Training Association (CBETA)**

### **Employment Training Programs/Social Enterprise/Employment Opportunity**

*“We create opportunities that empower individual growth”.*

A registered Non-Profit, the *Cutting Barriers Employment and Training Association* purpose is to create opportunities that empower personal growth through culinary training and employment.

Cutting Barriers is proud to be a part of the 'Under One Roof' facility. We provide a structured training program to disadvantaged individuals throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor with a curriculum focus on food preparation and service, a skill set in high demand.

Under the supervision of expert trainers, students/clients will develop a wide variety of skills and build confidence in the workplace. Our contract to provide a daily hot meal service to the on-site clients will provide valuable hands-on training as well. Cutting Barriers Catering will also give local businesses the ability to tailor an organic, local or regional menu to suit their needs and budget at the same time as supporting individual growth for our trainees.

A 300 + square foot bakery/café is the perfect place to provide employment to successful graduates of the CBETA's training. The café will not only offer services to the "Under One Roof" facility but eventually community members. This invites the community to experience and support the incredible programs being run in synchronization at the "Under One Roof" facility, with the benefit of knowing that their patronage helps the trainees succeed.

A dedicated onsite employment consultant will also work with trainees to connect them with work opportunities available in the community.

## **It Takes a Community to Re-imagine a Life 'Under One Roof'**

**A**t 'Under One Roof' the community comes together to partner to help people re-imagine their lives. Support and partnerships are provided by the following formal and informal partnerships: \*

**Program Delivery Partners:** Squamish Helping Hands Society / Squamish Food Bank Society/ Cutting Barriers Education and Training (CBETA) / Vancouver Coastal Health / Sea to Sky Community Services / Howe Sound Women's Centre Society

**Referral Program Partners:** Howe Sound Women's Centre / Sea to Sky Community Services/ Squamish Youth Centre/ Squamish Senior Citizen Home Society/ Ministry for Children & Families/ Turning Point Society / Training Innovations/Work BC /Whistler Community Services Society

**Community Partners:** Jordan Sturdy MLA/ Pamela Goldsmith Jones, MP/ Squamish Chief, Squamish Reporter, Squamish Mountain FM/Squamish Lillooet Regional District/ Squamish Chamber of Commerce / Squamish Library, Squamish Non-Profit Network,

**Funding Partners:** BC Housing Authority/The Municipality of Squamish/ Squamish Savings Foundation/ Whistler Blackcomb Foundation/ BC Lottery Corporation/Target Homes/& private donors.

\*join us...contact Maureen Mackell, Helping Hands Executive Director at [maureen@shhs.ca](mailto:maureen@shhs.ca) or Squamish Helping Hands Society

37930 Third Ave, PO Box 994

Squamish, BC, V8B 0A7

**Tel:** 604 815 4984 **Fax:** 604 815 4234/**E-mail:** info@shhs.ca