



**1. Hope and Area Transition Society is a good neighbour that seeks to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve**

- Hope and Area Transition Society is part of the solution, not the problem.
- Our successful 24--year track record in Hope and surrounding area demonstrates our operations are aligned with the values of the communities which we serve.
- We've operated a Transition House in a confidential location for 24-years without incident

**2. Our proposal will meet an urgent need and is a solution that will contribute to the well-being of Hope**

- Our proposed project will provide critically needed housing supports for individuals who are chronically and precarious housed in Hope where no housing options have existed in the past
- Will improve health outcomes and foster healthier individuals and a healthier community

**3. Our proposal will give our local homeless and those at-risk of homelessness a priority for housing, to make it easier for them to get the help they need, when they need it in their home community.**

- Currently, Hope has no Supportive Housing options and furthermore no affordable housing options that our residents can afford

**4. Our proposal will help reduce pressure on local emergency rooms and health care facilities while reducing long-term health care costs and crime**

- It will lower the social and economic cost of addiction in our community by reducing health care, policing, corrections and social services costs
- Reduced emergency room visits
- Reduced hospital bed use
- Reduced average lengths of hospital stays
- Institutional/emergency intervention costs are 60-110% more than supported housing costs
- Total savings related to criminal justice, health and social services are between \$6,000 to \$12,000 annually for each supported housing unit

**5. Hope and Area Transition Society successes**

- We've been making a positive difference in Hope and surrounding area for 24 years
- We're the largest non-profit in Fraser-East providing domestic violence, homelessness substance use and youth and family services, dedicated to helping individuals and families led healthier and happier lives



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## **Hope and Area Transition Society (HATS)**

### **1. Who is Hope and Area Transition Society (HATS)?**

HATS is Fraser-East largest non-profit service provider offering domestic violence, homelessness, substance use and youth and family service programs in 3 facilities in Hope.

### **2. What does Hope and Area Transition Society do?**

As a registered, non-profit organization, our mission is to provide client-centered programs/services to individuals and families. Through a trauma-informed approach HATS will offer to clients and the community; services, advocacy and education to build resiliency, empowerment and inclusion

### **3. How long has Hope and Area Transition Society been operating?**

HATS has been providing services for over 24 years and has made a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

### **4. Are Hope and Area Transition Society's programs effective?**

HATS programs work. Youth, individuals and families report acceptance, and a feeling of helpfulness and hopefulness after receiving services. Hope and Area Transition Society on average provides services to approximately 3,000 individuals and families annually.

### **5. What is Hope and Area Transition Society?**

The Hope & Area Transition Society's philosophical underpinnings begin with the inherent value and rights of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, culture or spirituality. We recognize the systemic power imbalances that exist within our community, society and global village and we will continue to work toward empowering others in the reduction and elimination of these various imbalances that impact on the lives of individuals and our community.

Through a trauma-informed approach we offer a supportive environment to facilitate the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual development of the individual and/or family. Depending on the program/service an individual and/or family may participate in individual and/or group workshops, including life skills, parenting skills; referrals; stress and coping techniques; conflict resolution and anger management; relapse prevention; transition and aftercare planning. Case management and goal setting to determine next steps in their life helps support to ensure individuals are working towards enhancing their quality of life.

Hope and Area Transition Society serves our clients through an approach that provides autonomy of choice through a non-judgemental, respectful manner.

### **6. How is Hope and Area Transition Society funded?**

HATS is funded by 4 main government funders: BC Housing, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Fraser Health Authority, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Grants and donations are part of the operations of the agency.

### **7. Who oversees Hope and Area Transition Society?**

Through a governance model, HATS has a 9-member Board of Directors, who employs the Executive

Director to implement the Society's strategic plan and the Executive Director oversees the 6-member management team who oversees the front-line staff who do the direct work with the clients.

### **Emergency Shelter**

**8. How long can individuals stay in the Emergency Shelter?**

Emergency Shelter is a maximum of 90 days, during their stay they work with a staff to develop a case management plan and are connected to the Homeless Outreach Team to help support them in finding housing.

**9. Who accesses the Emergency Shelter?**

Individuals who are experiencing homelessness, 75% of the clients consider themselves local. There are 6 female beds and 14 male beds.

**10. Can substances be used on the premises at the Shelter?**

Substance use is not permitted on site, harm reduction supplies are offered to ensure safe use.

**11. What does harm reduction mean?**

Harm Reduction is an evidence-based, client-centered approach that seeks to reduce the health and social harms associated with addiction and substance use, without necessarily requiring people who use substances from abstaining or stopping. Included in the harm reduction approach to substance use is a series of programs, services and practices. Essential to a harm reduction approach is that it provides people who use substances a choice of how they will minimize harms through non-judgmental and non-coercive strategies in order to enhance skills and knowledge to live safer and healthier lives.

**12. Do you have good relationships with your neighbours at your existing locations?**

Hope and Area Transition Society is a good neighbour. Our successful 24-year track record in Hope demonstrates that our operations are aligned with the values of the communities which we serve. Out Transition House (confidential location) has operated for 24 years without incident. Our Park Street office has operated for 4 years in its current location without incident.

The Emergency Shelter works closely with our community partners to minimize incidents and the Community Advisory Committee considers appropriate protocol to address incidents that occur at this site.

### **52-Unit Supportive Housing**

**13. Will Hope and Area Transition Society's proposal of 52-units of Supportive Housing impact the quality of life in Hope neighbourhoods?**

When individuals who are homeless and living rough their substance use and mental health are unstable, therefore having negative effects within the community. Research shows that when individuals are housed their mental and physical well-being improves, their basic needs are taken care, therefore leading to reduced negative effects in the community.

**14. What does low barrier mean?**

Low Barrier Housing is where a minimum number of expectations are placed on people who wish to live there. The aim is to have as few barriers as possible to allow more people access to services, therefore those with complex barriers/challenges can access housing and stabilize themselves.

**15. Will Supportive Housing increase or attract drug dealers into the neighbourhoods where it is located?**

No. Research shows that individuals who are housed in Supportive Housing facilities are naturally

protective of their desire to stabilize their living situation and want to make changes in their life. Therefore, there is simply no demand and no drug dealers. In fact, drug dealers are acutely aware that they are not welcome at our facility and others like them.

**16. What are the benefits of your proposal?**

There is clear evidence to suggest that our proposal will improve health outcomes in the community by creating greater access to housing options; reduce emergency room visits and hospital bed use; and decrease long-term health care costs by reducing the use of medical services, and other publicly funded services.

Study after study has shown that supportive housing not only resolves homelessness and increases housing stability, but also improves health and lowers public costs by reducing the use of publicly funded crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, psychiatric centers, jails, and prisons

**17. Who will be served at this site?**

The proposed site will be for the homeless and precariously housed, 19 and older individual. Residents of Hope will have priority.

**18. How are residents selected?**

Priority is given to Hope residents. Through a coordinated access system HATS, BC Housing, Fraser Health and Mental Health will review applicants.

**19. What type of on-site services and supports will be offered?**

2 meals a day, case workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, mental health workers, substance use workers, employment services, physical and wellness opportunities and volunteer options

**20. What is the impact on property values?**

Research has shown in other communities 2-years post opening of supportive housing that property values did not see any decline, in fact in some instance's growth surrounding supportive housing rose faster than the city average and/or mirrored city-wide trends.

**21. Will there be a negative effect socially and economically as a result of Supportive Housing?**

Studies have proven that for every dollar invested in dedicated-site supportive housing, approximately four to five dollars in social and economic value is created.

**22. Will there be staff on site during the evenings?**

Yes. All of Hope and Area Transition Society's housing programs have 24 hour supervision – 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**23. Are pets welcome?**

Yes, pets are part of the client's family and provide support and comfort.

**24. Do residents have a curfew? If so, how is this enforced?**

Residents do not have a curfew, however signing in and out is required to allow staff to know who is in the building.

**25. Are there restrictions on visitors?**

Yes. Residents can have guests in their rooms. These guests have been authorized by staff and all guests must sign in upon entering the facility. The resident must inform the staff of any visitors.

**26. What sort of training do you require for your staff?**

Hope and Area Transition Society employees may have a variety of training and experience, ranging from lived-experience, work and volunteer experiences. All staff are required to complete the necessary training as set out by the Funder and ongoing additional training is offered throughout

the course of their employment.

**27. Are residents required to set goals?**

Residents are required to attend group counselling daily and a minimum of one individual counselling session each week. Daily check-ins with counselling staff are encouraged. Residents have additional check-ins with assigned staff to review progress on homework assignments. All residents are referred for additional counselling in the community if their circumstances warrant more intensive therapy.

**28. Will the Supportive Housing program connect with programs for employment retraining and skills development for residents?**

HATS will partner with the local Work BC centre to help residents with employment readiness. Access to upgrading through the University of the Fraser Valley will also be offered. The Ministry of Housing and Social Development also offers a full continuum of training and re-training options.