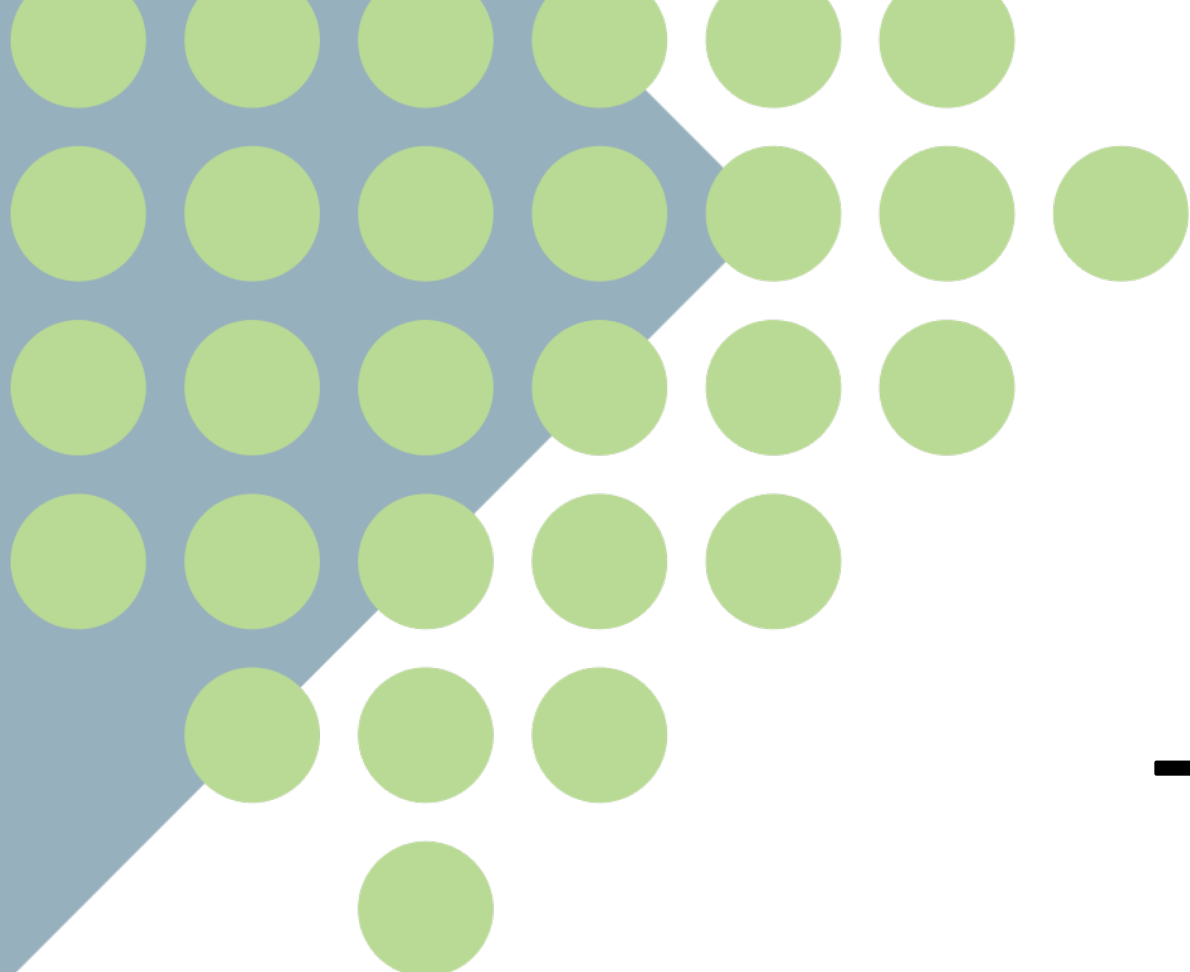
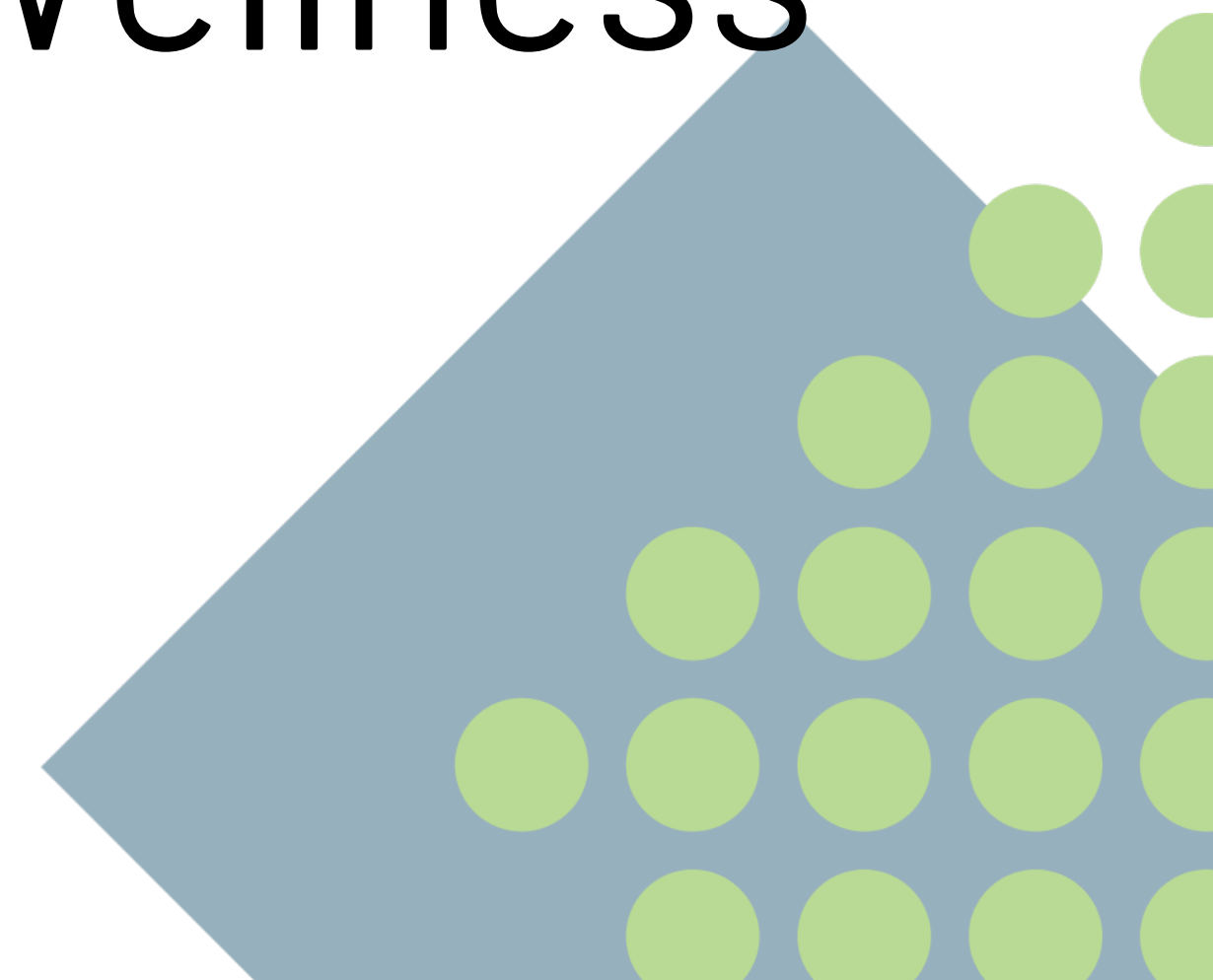




THE WAY OUT: Cowichan Vision for Wellness



—
2024

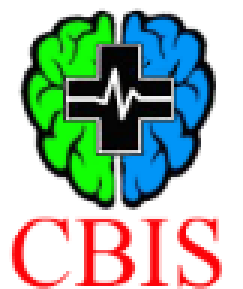
THE COWICHAN REGION

Success in the Cowichan region has been largely due to the way in which we work together, our regional focus to complex social issues.

Cowichan region local governments and Indigenous leaders are aligned across civic jurisdictions and mandates and united in their approach to clear and coherent goals.

Built on the lessons learned during the pandemic, members of the Coalition to Address Homelessness have collaborated on a 3-phase comprehensive response to this complex crisis in our community.

Built on Partnerships and Working Together



Our Current Situation

*A 2024 count by direct providers identified
423 Unhoused People in our Region

Most of whom are from our **own** region

- 23% of those unhoused are from Lake Cowichan
- 46 % of those unhoused are Indigenous and
- Of that 46% - 17 were between the ages of 13 and 18

An estimated 3000 people are ***less than 1 pay cheque*** away from being unhoused

Our Current Situation – Shelter Options

Our limited shelter space includes:

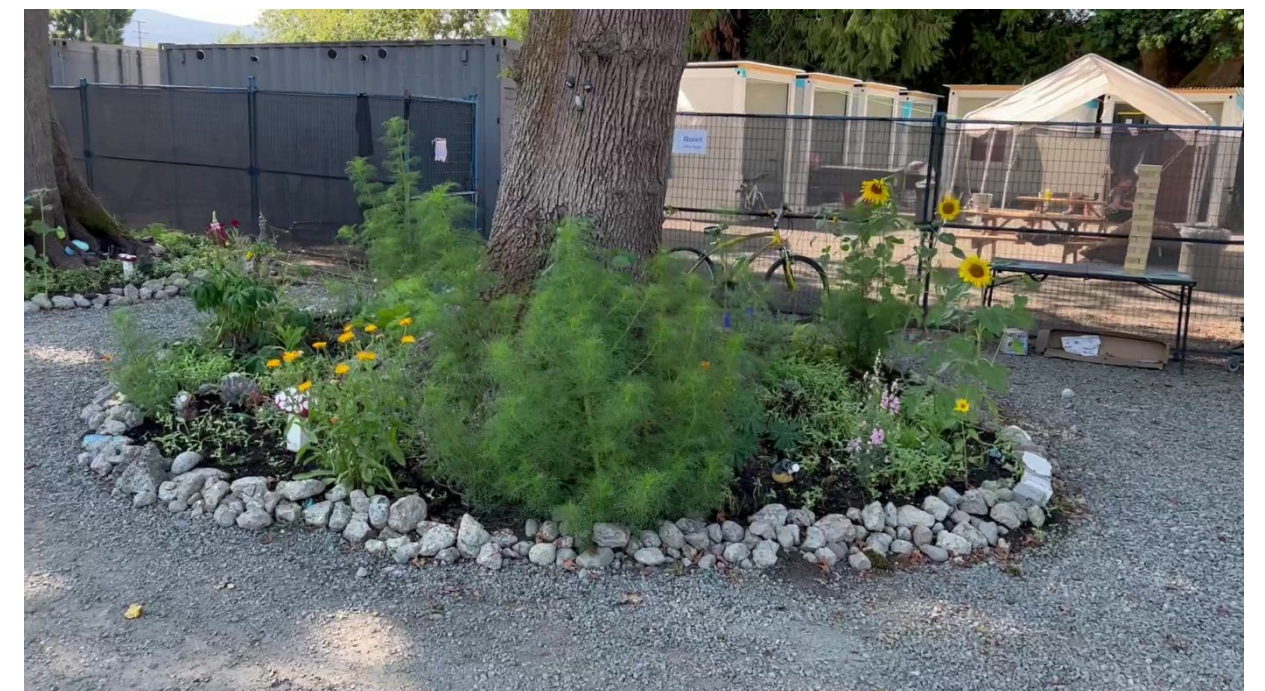
- 36 beds at Warmland Shelter
- 24 beds at Cedar Branches Women's Shelter
- 15 additional beds at Warmland during extreme cold weather
- No current extreme weather shelter location identified

348 Total **Shortfall**

- In 2023 444 people sheltered at Warmland. 80 of whom were over the age of 60 -the **oldest guest was 77**
- Seniors Residential Care and Assisted Living are not able to support those living with mental health and addictions, complex care or health challenges

Our Current Situation - Supported Housing

- Village 34 units
- Squ'mul 52 Units
- Warmland Bunk House and Apartments 24
- 2026/7 White Road 48 Units
- Duncan Manor 122 Units for 55+ Seniors (Low Income and people with physical and mental health challenges), and Independent Living



OUR SOLUTION:

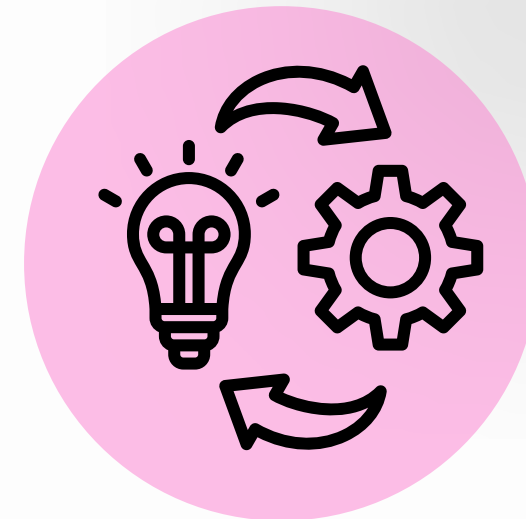
3 Phase comprehensive plan
Requires all levels of government to work collaboratively with
investments in:



Land



Buildings/Infrastructure



Operations

Phase One 1-3 years

Immediate Priority – Complex Needs

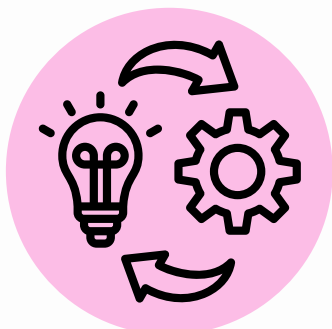
Temporary Supported Solutions



- Acquisition or lease of 7x sites for Village-style projects across the region
- Acquisition or lease of 2x sites for RV parking
\$9 million



- Purchase of modular units and provision of site servicing
 - Supportive zoning
\$6 million



- Skilled employees to provide trauma informed, culturally grounded supports to those with the most complex needs
 - Site maintenance
\$8 million annually

Shelter Space

Acquisition or lease of site(s) for up to 30 additional shelter spaces with additional capacity as warming/cooling centres
\$1million

Culturally grounded renovation of existing space(s)
\$500,000

Skilled employees to offer trauma informed, culturally grounded supports to permanent shelter operations as well as increased capacity during extreme weather events
\$1million annually

Treatment

- Acquisition of existing site for 20 treatment beds
- Supportive recovery options
\$2 million

Culturally grounded renovation of existing space and purchase of 20 modular sleeping units
\$1.5 million

Skilled employees to deliver trauma informed, culturally grounded treatment with pre-and post- treatment options
\$2.6 million annually

- ‘A solution that nobody even imagined’: The Village as a model for housing and mental health and addictions support

- Evidence shows that The Village is supporting residents with treatment and recovery, as well as housing.

- BY [SHALU MEHTA](#) • [COWICHAN VALLEY](#) • FEBRUARY 8, 2024



Phase Two 2-4 years

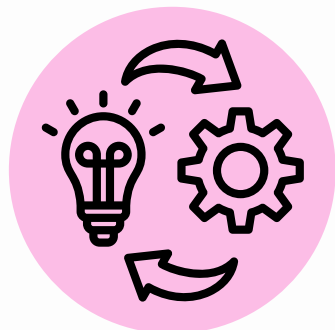
Supports for Seniors



Purchase of 4 existing, multi-bed residences
\$4 million



Renovations to each to ensure suitability and cultural safety within rooming house
\$2 million



- Skilled employees to provide trauma informed, culturally sensitive daily supports
 - Site maintenance
\$2 million annually

Income Supports

n/a

The infrastructure required - relationships with local non-profits with the capacity to administer resources

- Investments in housing loss prevention measures:
- Emergency/crisis supports
 - Rent subsidies
 - Guaranteed Basic Income

Outreach Supports

n/a

n/a

- Enhance and expand mental health services, offering trauma informed, culturally grounded supports
- Pre- and post- treatment supports
 - Peer Support options

Phase Three 5-10 years

Permanent and Purpose-Built Options

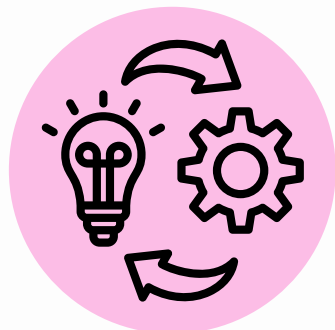
Supported Housing



Purchase of 2 development sites for supportive housing projects
\$2 million



Construction of 2 x 50-70 unit buildings
\$20-24 million



- Skilled employees to provide trauma informed, culturally grounded daily supports
- Site and building maintenance
\$2.8 million annually

Second Stage Housing

Purchase of development sites or existing buildings to offer transitional housing

Renovation of existing space to meet specific needs of those leaving mental health or addictions treatment

Skilled employees to deliver trauma informed, culturally grounded treatment and daily supports
\$1.6 million per site annually

Affordable Housing

Investments in affordable housing options in response to need identified in the Housing Needs Assessment -
for our workforce and low income families and seniors

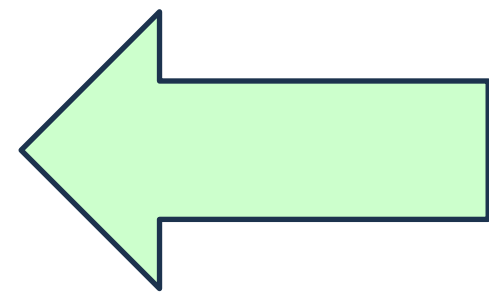


When Properly Resourced...

There is Hope – We Know What Works

- The Village- Changing lives – Changing Community
 - 1 in 5 accessed treatment with other substance use significantly reduced
 - Crime down 18% in neighbourhood (2023)
 - 88% engaged in peer work and employment caring for neighbourhood and providing outreach which contributes to a safer community for all
 - Costs to service providers significantly reduced including 75 % reduction in emergency department visits
 - Precursor to treatment and recovery. "Now I am supported. Now I am ready."





FROM THIS -
TO THIS

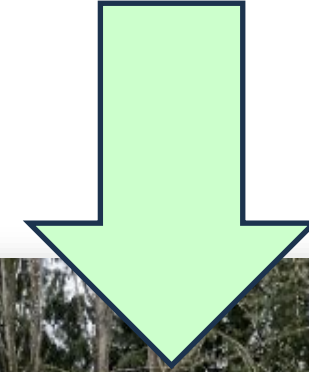


Photo above- Cowichan
Valley Citizen



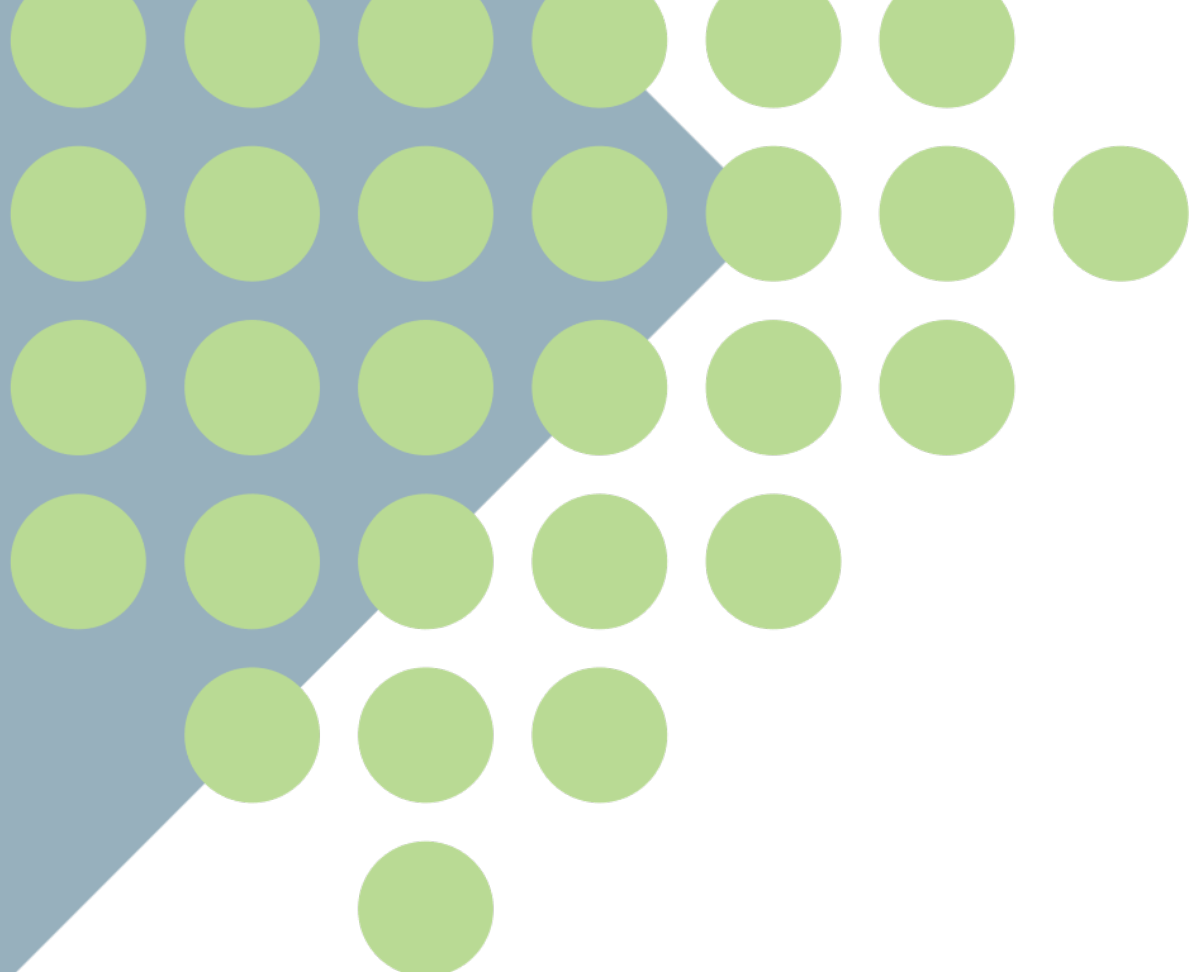
YOUR SUPPORT

Local government can support this plan through:

- ***Endorsement**

- ***Advocacy** – at provincial and federal levels

- ***Contribution** – land/infrastructure,
– supportive zoning and bylaws



Huy ch q'ũ
Thank you

