

Action Team Update

April 1, 2022

The Action Team, which was established in May 2021, has adopted a coordinated approach to provide housing, health and supportive services for individuals in Happy Valley-Goose Bay experiencing homelessness.

This is a community-led group with representation from the Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation, Innu Round Table Secretariat, NunatuKavut Community Council, the Labrador Friendship Centre, the Salvation Army, Labrador-Grenfell Health, the RCMP, the Housing and Homelessness Coalition, the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and the Provincial and Federal Governments.

The operations of the Housing Hub emergency shelter in Happy Valley-Goose Bay are managed by the Nunatsiavut Government. The Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation supports the shelter with an annual grant and provides additional funding towards the Labrador Inn, which serves as an overflow for the shelter.

Through a coordinated and collaborative approach, the Action Team has worked to bring services to individuals who are homeless or may be transiently homeless in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Outreach has been identified as key in addressing needs among the homeless populations. Community partners, which include the Innu Round Table Secretariat, Nunatsiavut Government, Labrador Friendship Centre and Salvation Army, are contributing outreach resources and further work is under way to coordinate the delivery of services.

The Action Team, led by the Labrador Affairs Secretariat, has also identified the need for an Integrated Service Delivery Model and facility. The Labrador Friendship Centre is leading, on behalf of the Action Team, a community-led needs assessment that will identify the infrastructure and services required to support the current and longer-term needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area.

The Action Team acknowledges support from the Federal Government (Employment and Social Development Canada) through the Reaching Home Indigenous Homelessness and the Rural and Remote Homelessness funding streams. The goal of these programs is to create partnerships with local groups and organizations to help prevent and reduce homelessness in rural and remote communities across Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Action Team is meeting regularly to continue the ongoing efforts to support individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

Quote from the Action Team:

“The Action Team, consisting of Indigenous and community partners, is leading the coordination of a community-based approach to address health, housing and supportive service needs of vulnerable and at-risk individuals who experience homelessness. This update represents a summary of some key supports and services that have been implemented to date. The Team remains committed to working together towards lasting solutions.”

Membership of the Action Team:

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Housing and Homelessness Coalition
- Innu Nation
- Innu Round Table Secretariat
- Labrador Affairs Secretariat
- Labrador Friendship Centre
- Labrador-Grenfell Health
- Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation
- Mushuau Innu First Nation
- NunatuKavut Community Council
- Nunatsiavut Government
- RCMP
- Salvation Army
- Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Background:

A broad range of supports have been put in place through government departments and agencies and community partners, such as:

- Justice and Public Safety is contributing \$10,000 to fund the purchase of emergency supplies for the Housing Hub, including blankets, mittens, socks, personal hygiene items and first aid kits.
- The Innu Round Table Secretariat provides services to support Innu clients and assigns an outreach worker at the Housing Hub.
- Digital Government and Service NL has arrangements in place to provide photo identification and birth certificate services at the Housing Hub.
- The Salvation Army, with financial support from the Federal and Provincial governments, Reaching Home Indigenous Newfoundland and Labrador and other organizations, has taken delivery of an Emergency Disaster Response Vehicle that will be used to provide outreach services.
- Children, Seniors and Social Development has arranged in-person services on a weekly basis at the Housing Hub.

- Labrador-Grenfell Health has assigned a Nurse Practitioner, Licensed Practical Nurse and Social Worker at the Housing Hub, implemented a needle exchange program in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, provided onsite individual counselling at the shelter, activated partner coordinated discharge planning and implemented a Mobile Crisis Response Team in partnership with the RCMP.
- Funding under the National Housing Strategy has been provided to the Nunatsiavut Government to establish a “Housing Navigator” position at the Housing Hub.
- A community-led needs assessment, led by the Labrador Friendship Centre, is identifying infrastructure and services required to support the current and longer-term needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- A case management team has been established to support individuals with complex needs.
- Expansion of the Housing Hub to a 24-hour operation with financial assistance from the Reaching Home Indigenous Newfoundland and Labrador and the Rural and Remote Homelessness Funding Streams.
- Engagement and support from the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay’s Enforcement Officer.



Caption: Front (l-r) Julia Mullaley, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation; Kylie Rose and Germaine Benuen, Innu Roundtable Secretariat; Cherie Auchinleck, Labrador Friendship Centre; Misty Dyson, Labrador Affairs Secretariat; Amanda Pardy, Labrador-Grenfell Health; Alicia Neville and Jennifer Elson, Labrador Friendship Centre; Virginia Collins, Innu Nation; Michelle Watkins, Labrador Affairs Secretariat. Back (l-r) Chris Myrden and Franca Smith, Labrador Affairs Secretariat; Melanie Thomas, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation; Larry Baker, Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay; Todd Walsh, RCMP; Major Byron Kean, Salvation Army. Missing from photo: Jackie Compton-Hobbs, Housing and Homelessness Coalition; Michelle Kinney, Nunatsiavut Government; Dorothy Pye-Johnson, NunatuKavut Community Council; Sherry George and Jerry Gregoire, Mushuau Innu First Nation; Rose Rich, Innu Nation; and Jason Thomson, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.