



## **DISCUSSION**

Homelessness is a significant and persistent problem in many municipalities across Canada, including Surrey. While the City of Surrey continues to work in partnership with BC Housing, Fraser Health, and community agencies to address the issue, the number of homeless people is growing.

The Metro Vancouver Homeless Count is conducted every three years. From 2005 to 2014, the number of homeless people counted in Surrey remained stable, at about 400 people. The next Metro Vancouver Homeless Count will be conducted in March 2017 and it is expected that the count will show that Surrey's homeless population has increased.

InSource Consulting is proposing to utilize a complex adaptive system (CAS) approach to further develop and further refine strategies for reducing homelessness for Surrey. It will utilize CAS tools such as network analysis, asset mapping, concept mapping, and dynamic system modelling. The strong evidence-based approach will be combined with a facilitated community process that will bring all the key stakeholders together to develop a visionary strategy that will stress the provision of integrated, comprehensive, coordinated, and efficient services.

InSource Consulting's proposed research will complement and further refine the current City of Surrey's Master Plan for Housing the Homeless (Master Plan). The Master Plan focuses specifically on supportive housing needs. InSource's project will explore the range of systems (e.g. housing, health, income, and other support services) that impact homelessness. This exercise, should funding be successful, will position Surrey for future capital funding opportunities related to ending homelessness.

### **InSource Consulting**

Dr. John Millar, a senior associate at InSource Consulting, will lead the project. Dr. Millar has extensive experience in population and public health at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. Positions held by Dr. Millar include: BC Provincial Health Officer (1992-1998); Vice President for the Canadian Institute for Health Information in Ottawa (1998-2003); and Executive Director, Population and Public Health, for the BC Provincial Health Services Authority (2003-2011). He is a Lifetime Honourary member of both the Canadian Public Health Association and the Public Health Association of BC, and has received several awards recognizing his contributions to public health nationally and provincially. Dr. Millar is currently Clinical Professor Emeritus at the School for Population and Public Health at UBC, and Vice President of the Public Health Association of BC.

## **CONCLUSION**

There is a sense of urgency in Surrey, and among many municipalities across the country, to better respond to the challenges of homelessness, and its related mental health and addictions issues. InSource Consulting's proposed project will assist Surrey in developing an innovative, evidence-based strategy that will guide future actions and make the best use of available resources. The Surrey project will also create new tools and processes that could be utilized by other cities in Canada.

It is therefore proposed that Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Community Development and Homelessness Partnerships Directorate (CDHPD) and the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), indicating support for InSource Consulting's application for "Innovative Solutions to Homelessness" funding and highlighting the City's commitment to work in partnership with InSource Consulting to develop a visionary and innovative strategy to address homelessness.

*Original signed by*  
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