

Media Release: April 12th, 2016

HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY FUNDING FOR HOUSING FIRST PROJECT

The Community Advisory Board on Homelessness is pleased to announce that two community partners—Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society and Canadian Mental Health Association Kelowna—were awarded Federal contributions under Canada’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy for funding year 2016-2017. A total of \$184,910 was awarded. \$147,400 of the total funding awarded will be used to deliver the first Kelowna Housing First project funded by the Government of Canada’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

Housing First is an effective tool in solving [chronic and episodic homelessness](#) while reducing pressure on other emergency services. Permanent housing, complemented by the provision of services, helps to assist clients to sustain their housing and work towards recovery and reintegration into the community.

Through a focus on Housing First, the [Homelessness Partnering Strategy](#) can support communities in reducing the strain on shelter, health and justice services, while continuing to address the needs of the most vulnerable. This represents a balanced approach that ensures that communities adopting Housing First remain flexible to invest in other proven approaches that complement Housing First and measurably reduce homelessness at the local level.

The Central Okanagan Foundation, in the role of the Community Entity, manages the Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding in collaboration with the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness. “We’re grateful for the continued partnership opportunity with the Government of Canada to make a difference in addressing homelessness in the city of Kelowna,” Cheryl Miller, Director, Grants and Community Initiatives, Central Okanagan Foundation.

"Our government is committed to providing communities with support for Housing First initiatives that help homeless Canadians find stable housing. I congratulate the Central Okanagan Foundation and the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness moving forward and committing to delivering the Kelowna Housing First project funded by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy," said Stephen Fuhr, Member of Parliament for Kelowna-Lake Country.

-30-

For more information, please contact:
Randy Benson
Chair, Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB-H)
(250) 763-3737
randy@kelownagospelmission.ca