

## A Look at the Numbers

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### **How much does the status quo cost taxpayers today?**

The Expert Panel has highlighted emerging evidence that the current cost estimates of the status quo are more than \$50,000 per annum, per client.<sup>1</sup>

### **Why did the Expert Panel develop a model for 1,000 individuals?**

The Expert Panel developed the service configuration and order of magnitude costs for 1,000 individuals for ease of calculation. It can be scaled up or down depending on need. It **does not** mean only 1,000 people need housing and supports.

### **If a homeless count noted 1,242 individuals, why does the report speak to 1,550?**

A homeless count conducted in February 2007 counted 1,242 homeless individuals in the Capital Regional District. It is recognized that this is likely an under-reporting, so the Gap Analysis Team has assumed 1,550 people need to be housed immediately.

### **How many housing units are needed to address the homeless population?**

The Task Force recommends a minimum of 1,550 net new units must be secured over the next five years. This assumes efforts to slow down the number of people falling into homelessness can be put in place.

### **Will 1,550 housing units adequately house all homeless residents in Victoria?**

While 1,550 units will make a substantial impact, it does not account for growth in homeless residents over the next five years. The Task Force is targeting 1,550 housing units because it is an aggressive but achievable target given current market conditions.

### **Why is there an estimated homeless growth rate between 5 and 30 per cent?**

The growth rates of 5-30 per cent demonstrates what will happen if we do not get moving on securing additional housing units now. An additional 1,550 net new units will provide housing for:

- People who are homeless with severe addictions
- People who are homeless with mental illness
- People who are homeless with co-occurring disorders

It will not address the growing demand for affordable housing but it will address the highest need population who require the most support, are the highest cost to the system and divert much needed resources from other programs and services.

### **How much will the recommend service delivery model cost?**

In 120 days, the Task Force did not have the time or the necessary financial data to determine the definitive costs to implement the Expert Panel's model in its entirety. What we know:

- The costs to current housing, mental health and substance use services expenditures
- The cost of inaction is \$50,000 per homeless resident, or over \$62 million per year
- The cost to house and support a severely addicted and mentally ill population is \$17,500-\$47,000 per person, per annum

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<sup>1</sup> Patterson, M., Somers, J., Shiell, A., & Frankish, J. (2007). Center for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction, Simon Fraser University. *Housing and supports for adults with severe addictions and/or mental illness in B.C.*  
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