



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 6th 2020**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 31 2020
From: Mayor Helps, Councillors Loveday, Thornton-Joe, Alto
Subject: Coordinated Assessment and Access Policy Group Recommendations

BACKGROUND

The regional Coordinated Assessment and Access (CAA) process is administered by BC Housing, Island Health, and the CRD with support from the Coalition to End Homelessness, housing providers, and people with lived experience of homelessness. The CAA Policy Group sets the criteria for prioritizing individuals experiencing homelessness for housing. The CAA Placement Table places people into housing based on these priorities. The current priority populations are:

1. Indigenous, given that 33% of the people experiencing homelessness in the 2018 Point in Time Count were Indigenous as compared the general Indigenous population of the region (approximately 3.4%)
2. People over the age of 55
3. People who are chronically homeless (high degree of experiences of homelessness over a long period of time)

The recently released 2020 Point In Time Count results (see attached Appendices) will require the CAA Policy Group to re-prioritize. This work is set to take place in September 2020. The Policy Group will use its own experience, wisdom and other data sets to determine priorities. However, Council is also free to make recommendations for its consideration.

The 2020 Point in Time Count reveals that Indigenous people are still disproportionately represented at 35%. The majority of people experiencing homelessness in the region (70%) are between the ages of 25 and 54. We recommend that the Indigenous priority should remain, and the age priority should be broadened to reflect the results of the 2020 Point in Time Count.

In addition, a strong majority of people experiencing homelessness (88%) have lived in the region for one year or more. With respect to residency, the CAA Policy Group does not currently have a residency requirement. However, several other municipalities do. Parksville prioritizes people who have lived in the area for one year or more. Courtenay prioritizes people who have lived in the area for three years or more. Based on the high percentage of people living in the region for one year or more, and based on the sheer number of people already experiencing homelessness – a total of 1523, which the Point In Time Count notes is likely an undercount – we recommend that Council asks the CAA Policy Group prioritize people who have lived in the region for one year or more.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council requests that the Coordinated Assessment and Access Policy Group adjust its criteria for prioritizing people for housing based on the recently released 2020 Point in Time Count results including continuing to prioritize Indigenous people at the rate at which they are experiencing homelessness, broadening the age priority to reflect the most recent Point in Time Count data and prioritizing people who have lived in the region for one year or more.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Helps



Councillor Loveday



Councillor Thornton-Joe



Councillor Alto