



Journey Home Strategy - Stakeholder Pledge

Journey Home Strategy Vision:

Driven by a commitment to action, the entire community is inspired to contribute collectively to an integrated system of care where every person feels valued and supported, and every journey leads home.

Collective Values:

- ❖ *guided by* **LIVED EXPERIENCE VOICE**
- ❖ *enlightened through* **RECONCILIATION**
- ❖ *inspired by* **INNOVATION**
- ❖ *rooted in* **COMPASSION**
- ❖ *committed to uphold individual* **CHOICE**
- ❖ *compelled to ensure* **EQUITY**
- ❖ *strengthened by* **COLLECTIVE action**
- ❖ *committed to* **INCLUSION**
- ❖ *driven by* **COURAGE**
- ❖ *grounded in* **INTEGRITY**
- ❖ *rooted in* **DIGNITY**
- ❖ *founded on* **HONESTY and TRANSPARENCY**
- ❖ *energized by innovation to* **RESPOND and ADAPT** *appropriately*
- ❖ *dedicated to nurture* **RESILIENCY**

Guiding Principles:

The following principles guide our collective work to support the Journey Home Strategy.

Lived/Living Experience

We place people and their experiences at the centre of the work, always. This involves recognizing and respecting people who are homeless as experts in their own lives, their values, life situations and expressed needs. To understand this perspective, we strive to directly engage people with lived and living experience in developing and implementing the Journey Home Strategy.

The lens recognizes there is no one "type" of person experiencing homelessness and no one size-fits-all response. We recognize intersections of race, socio-economic status, gender, age, sexual orientation and religion, respecting that services will need to be flexible and adaptive to diverse needs.

Innovation

As a collective, we endeavor to challenge ourselves as a community to be creative and innovative in our response to homelessness, leveraging best practices to inform made-in-Kelowna solutions. Being innovative also means bringing in expertise from other sectors, creating partnerships and thinking creatively about housing and supports. We have dug deep to draw in usual and unusual suspects in our community, defined new collaborations and identified potential ways of achieving the Strategy goals through social innovation, social enterprise and leveraging technology.

Housing First

Housing First is a person-centred approach rooted in the belief that all people deserve housing and that anyone, even those with the most complex needs, can move directly from homelessness to housing in concert with appropriate supports. Viewing housing as a primary need was in direct contrast to the traditional service response, which required people who were homeless to stabilize their addictions and mental health prior to receiving housing. Housing First, instead, argued that in order for someone to address their illnesses or related-challenges, they must be first housed.

This approach has a wealth of research to support its effectiveness and has been adopted in several cities across Canada due to its effectiveness in ending homelessness long-term; as well as having a positive impact on public system use, reducing the cost of homelessness to health, justice, and community.

Joint Leadership & Collaboration

This principle reflects the recognition that in order for this plan to be successful, everyone needs to be involved and do their part. Homelessness is a complex social issue involving multiple sectors and systems. Adequately responding to it, therefore, will require our collective effort and commitment. The Strategy will require commitment and action from all levels of government, including Indigenous government, non-profit providers, private sector, academia, living/lived experience, and Kelowna residents.

Prevention

A true end to homelessness requires that we think about how we can respond to current homelessness, but think upstream about how to prevent it in the first place. This requires the development of more affordable housing and changing policies to ensure vulnerable groups, leaving systems such as child protection, treatment, health care, or justice, are not discharged into homelessness. It entails the provision of the resources and supports to stay housed, improve integration and social inclusion, and reduce the risk of recurrence of homelessness.

We Pledge:

- Our commitment to the proposed Journey Home Strategy.
- To work collectively with other stakeholders to support the implementation of the Journey Home Strategy.
- To align our agency/organizations' programs and services with the Journey Home Strategy, where applicable.
- To identify our strengths so that we may seek out efficiencies to ensure we are all strong contributors to the Journey Home Strategy.
- To identify what contributions and/or investments we can provide to strengthen the implementation of the Journey Home Strategy.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Once the pledge is signed, please return it to the Journey Home Task Force:

1. Via email (send electronic or scanned copy to journeyhome@kelowna.ca)
2. Via mail
send to: Journey Home Kelowna City Hall 1435 Water Street, Kelowna BC V1Y1J4
3. Drop off at Kelowna City Hall (1435 Water Street) with attn to: Journey Home Task Force

If you have any questions, we invite you to attend a Pledge Information Session on June 4 at Rotary Centre for the Arts.

If you plan to attend, please register at kelowna.ca/journeyhome.

You can also email journeyhome@kelowna.ca with any questions you may have.