

New Transitional Housing Centre announced for North Bay

North Bay, ON – Nov. 26, 2019 – The Mayor’s Roundtable Action Team unveiled a collaborative plan today involving the creation of a new transitional housing stabilization centre to assist those who are at-risk or already homeless.

The plan was presented as part of a report back to the community on the Action Team’s work to address gaps identified as priority areas within the local mental health and addiction, poverty reduction, and homelessness services system.

The new transitional housing stabilization centre will provide mental health and addiction, housing supports and social services under one roof so that those in need of assistance or who are in crisis will have a 24/7 point of access and will no longer be required to visit different locations across the city.

“Thank you to the many organizations and individuals who contributed to this plan over the past few months. This is a major step forward in improving access to mental health and addictions programs and social services in our community,” said Mary Davis, Co-chair of the Roundtable and Executive Director of Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services.

The plan, which was presented at a public forum held at the Grande Event Centre in North Bay, includes an already-announced initiative to operate an 18-bed low barrier warming centre this winter and the transfer of those beds to the new housing stabilization site in 2020.

The Action Team also released the results of a survey conducted by People for Equal Partnership in Mental Health (PEP) and the AIDS Committee of North Bay & Area, along with other service providers to help inform the plan. Respondents were those most in need of the services, including people with lived experience, people living in poverty and the homeless.

“We heard from respondents who told us their stories and what they believe needs to be done to improve the system. We listened and we are moving forward with actions that reflect that feedback,” said Stacey Mayhall, AIDS Committee Executive Director.

Key finding of the survey included the need for barrier-free housing and services in the community as well as improved options for transportation and access to information and education.

“I would like to applaud all of the hard work that’s taken place since the first roundtable meeting in September. This group has, in very short order, responded to a need in the community. This plan sets the stage for continued collaboration and long-term solutions to these very difficult challenges,” said North Bay Mayor Al McDonald.

Contact

Gord Young
Communications Officer
Tel.: 705-474-0626 ext. 2505
gord.young@cityofnorthbay.ca