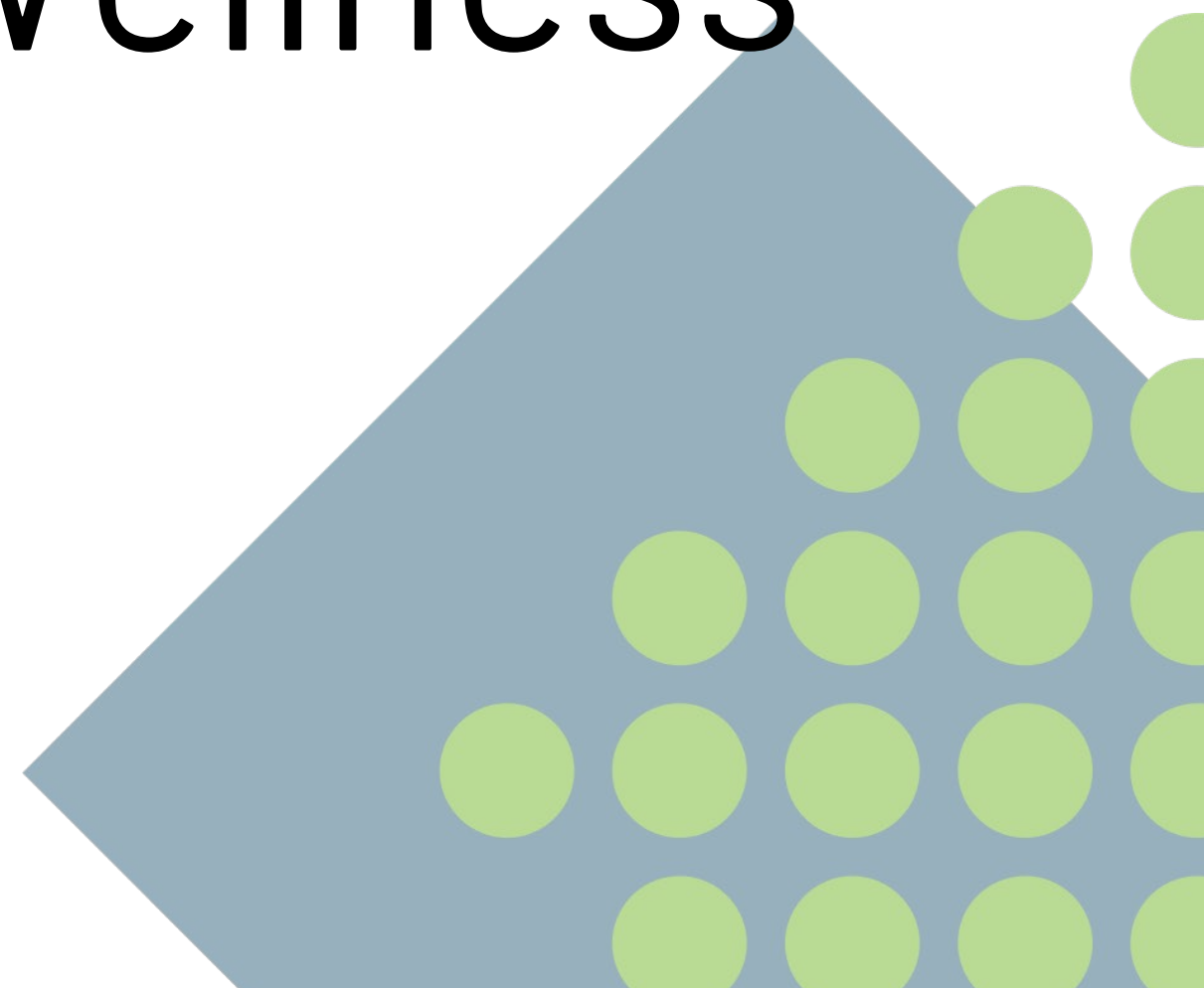


THE WAY OUT:

# Cowichan Vision for Wellness

—  
2024



# THE COWICHAN REGION

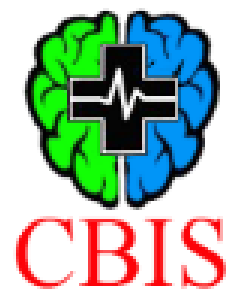
Our community is facing a crisis.

Previous success in the Cowichan region has been largely due to the way in which we work together, our regional approach to resolve complex social issues.

Cowichan region local governments and Indigenous leaders are aligned across civic jurisdictions and mandates and united in their approach to clear and coherent goals.

Members of the Cowichan Coalition to End Homelessness have collaborated on a 3-phase comprehensive response to this complex crisis in our community.

# Built on Partnerships and Working Together



# Our Current Situation

- A December 2023 count by direct providers identified 423 People who are unhoused or residing in shelters, the Village or Sq'uamal in the central core.
- 17 youth aged 13-18 were included in that count
- Approximately 40-70 people living in vehicles across the region

**It is directly known that over 300 people require permanent housing**

**3000 people are one pay cheque away from homelessness**

# Our Current Situation - Options

Available shelter space includes:

- 36 beds at Warmland Shelter
- 24 beds at Cedar Branches Women's Shelter
- 15 additional beds at Warmland during extreme cold weather
- 20 person emergency weather response in 2025

Available supported housing includes:

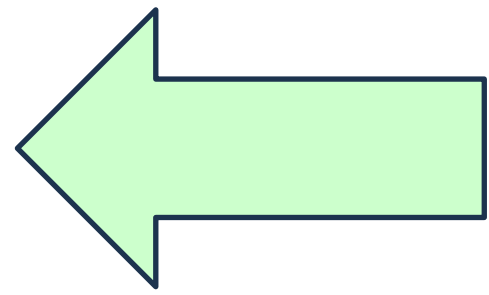
- Village 34 units
- Squ'mul 52 units
- Warmland bunkhouse & apartments 24 units
- Duncan Manor 122 units
- 2026/27....White Road 48 units

# When Properly Resourced...

## We Know What Works

The Village- Changing lives – Changing Community

- The village is a culturally safe and effective treatment model
- 20% of participants access residential treatment (compared to 1% of unhoused)
- Step 1 to treatment and recovery – “Now I am supported, Now I am ready”
- 100% of participants are connects to health services including addictions medicine, wound care, public health and mental health
- Costs to service providers significantly reduced, including 75% reduction in emergency department visits
- The Village is fast and affordable to implement – could be assembled in 90 days
- Pods are available from local supplier



FROM THIS -  
TO THIS

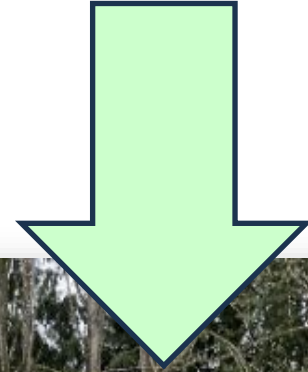


Photo above- Cowichan  
Valley Citizen



# OUR SOLUTION:

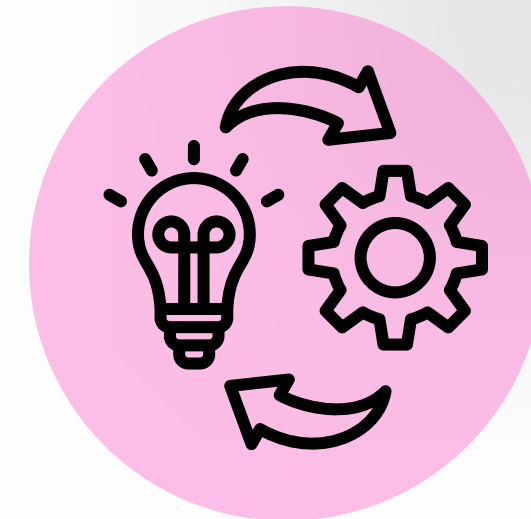
3 Phase comprehensive plan  
Requires all levels of government to work collaboratively with  
investments in:



Land



Buildings/Infrastructure



Operations

# Phase One 1-3 years

## Immediate Priority - Complex Needs

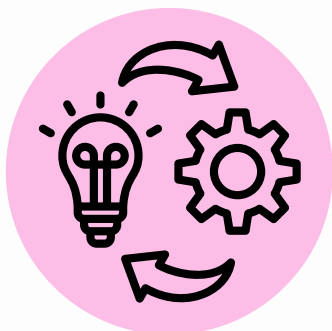
### Temporary Supported Solutions



- Acquisition or lease of 7x sites for Village-style projects across the region
- Acquisition or lease of 2x sites for RV parking



- Purchase of modular units and provision of site servicing
  - Supportive zoning



- Skilled employees to provide trauma informed, culturally grounded supports to those with the most complex needs
  - Site maintenance

### Shelter Space

Acquisition or lease of site(s) for up to 30 additional shelter spaces with additional capacity as warming/cooling centres

Culturally grounded renovation of existing space(s)

Skilled employees to offer trauma informed, culturally grounded supports to permanent shelter operations as well as increased capacity during extreme weather events

### Treatment

- Acquisition of existing site for 20 treatment beds
- Supportive recovery options

Culturally grounded renovation of existing space and purchase of 20 modular sleeping units

Skilled employees to deliver trauma informed, culturally grounded treatment with pre-and post-treatment options

# Phase Two 2-4 years

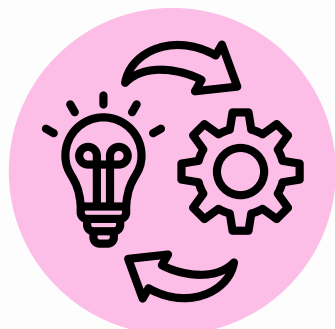
## Supports for Seniors



Purchase of 4 existing, multi-bed residences



Renovations to each to ensure suitability and cultural safety within rooming house



- Skilled employees to provide trauma informed, culturally sensitive daily supports
  - Site maintenance

## Income Supports

n/a

The infrastructure required - relationships with local non-profits with the capacity to administer resources

Investments in housing loss prevention measures:

- Emergency/crisis supports
- Rent subsidies
- Guaranteed Basic Income

## Outreach Supports

n/a

n/a

- Enhance and expand mental health services, offering trauma informed, culturally grounded supports
- Pre- and post- treatment supports
  - Peer Support options

# Phase Three 5-10 years

## Permanent and Purpose-Built Options

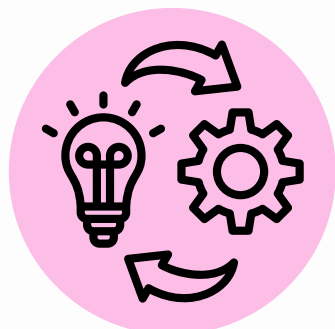
### Supported Housing



Purchase of 2 development sites for supportive housing projects



Construction of 2 x 50-70 unit buildings



- Skilled employees to provide trauma informed, culturally grounded daily supports
- Site and building maintenance

### Second Stage Housing

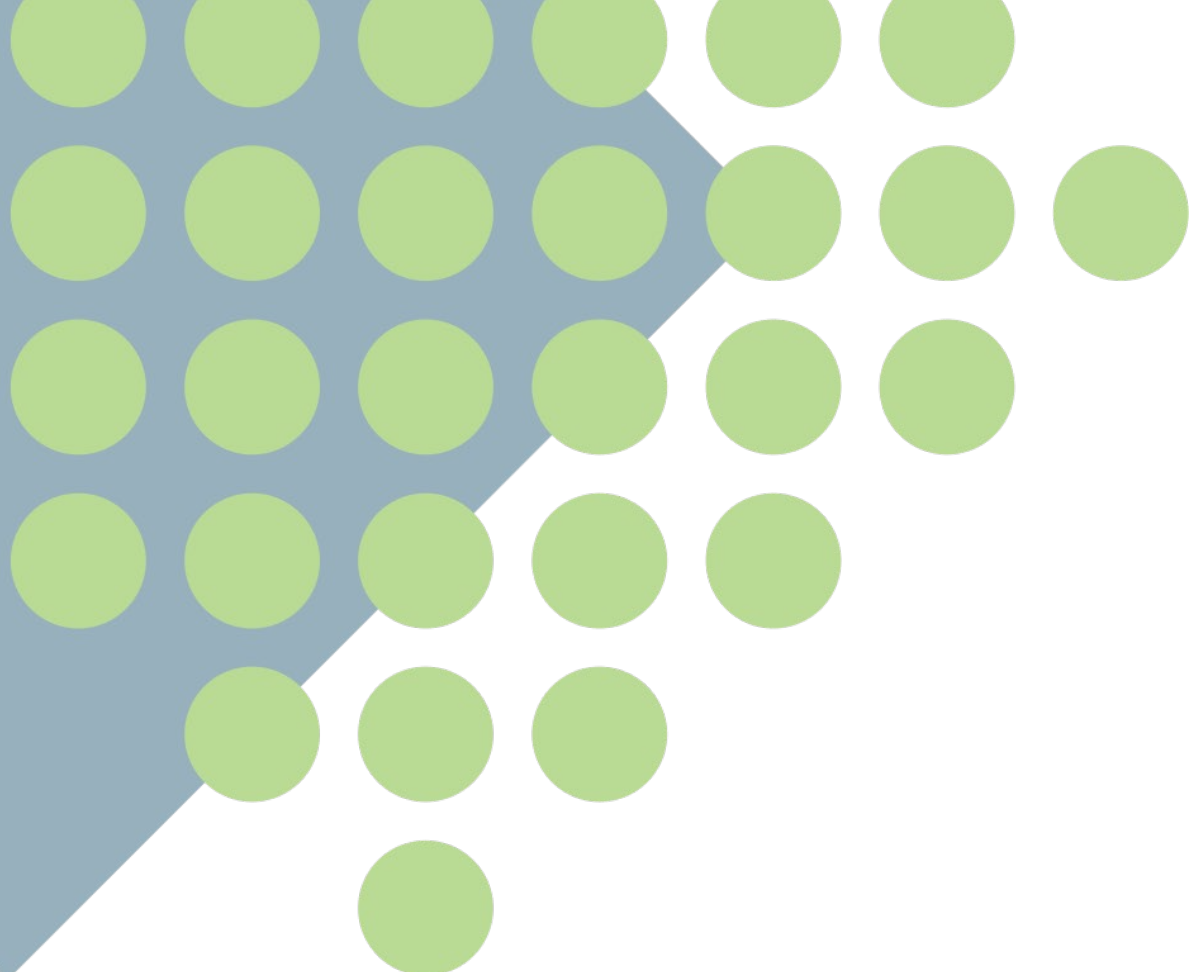
Purchase of development sites or existing buildings to offer transitional housing

Renovation of existing space to meet specific needs of those leaving mental health or addictions treatment

Skilled employees to deliver trauma informed, culturally grounded treatment and daily supports

### Affordable Housing

Investments in affordable housing options in response to need identified in the Housing Needs Assessment - for our workforce and low income families and seniors



Huy ch q'u  
Thank you

