

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Councillor Christine Thompson
DATE: March 26, 2018
SUBJECT: Report to Council

March 13th, I attended the Community Meeting on Poverty sponsored by Community Futures Boundary. I was at the table that included both staff and directors from the Whispers of Hope and Boundary Emergency Transition Housing Society. In the morning session, attendees were asked to note the issues people in poverty face. Some of the issues put forward were -- affordable housing, hunger, minimum wage is not a living wage, not in by back yard (NIMBY), social isolation, and lack of services (physical and mental health, counselling services, social assistance with no permanent address). Solutions suggested included an in-depth evaluation of what we have -- education, better communication of what services are available, and a harm reduction committee. I found this to be a very informative and education session. The afternoon discussion centered on housing. Inasmuch as it did not truly focus on our City, I did not get as much out of it as I had hoped. However, both issues were very worthwhile, and I am glad that I was able to attend.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor Christine Thompson