

# Creating a Continuum of Community Integration, Collaboration & Practice

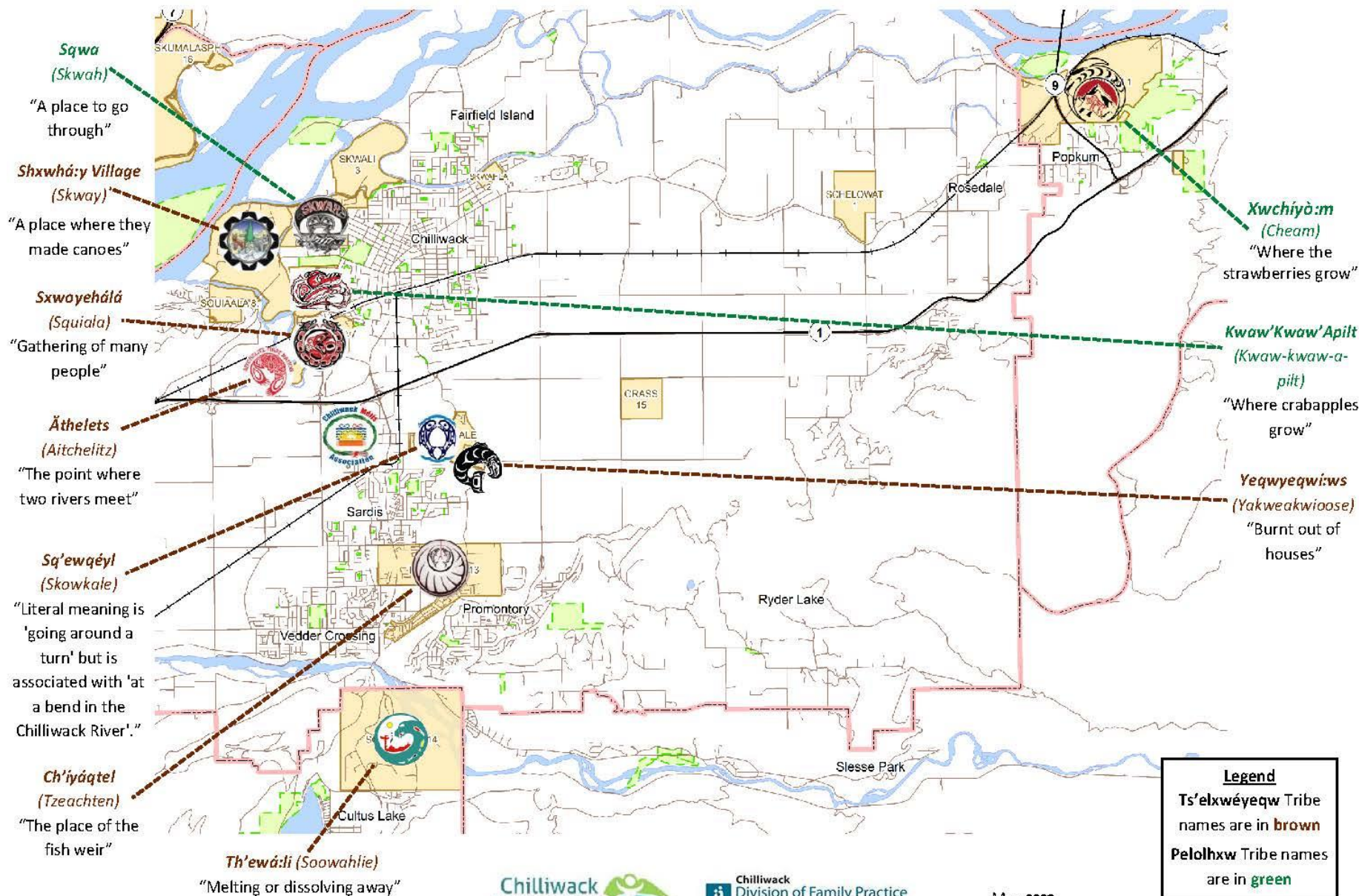
**Responding to Unsheltered Homelessness**

- Located one hour east of Vancouver in the Fraser Valley region nestled in the mountains
- Population is approximately 102,000
- Average home cost exceeds \$1,000,000
- Average rent for a one bedroom is \$1300



**This Territory is the Ancestral Home of the Ts'elxwéyeqw (Chilliwack)  
and Pelolhxw (Pilalt) Xwelmeqw (First Nations)**

- 10 First Nation Communities are woven into the fabric of Chilliwack
- 10% of our population identifies as Indigenous
- However, over 47% of our community experiencing homelessness identify as Indigenous



# Vulnerable Population Statistics

- 35% increase of homelessness since our Point-in-Time 2020 count
- 2023 PiT Count – 413 Individuals experiencing homelessness
- 60% male; 40% female
- 70% have been experiencing homelessness for longer than a year
- 47.7% of individuals who are experiencing homelessness identify as Indigenous



# Responding to Unsheltered Homelessness

- CRT – Community Response Team
- Community Integration & Coordination Program
  - Situation Table
  - Shop Talk
- Wellness Centre/OPS



## COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM (CRT)

- CRT provides face to face contact and support for well-being and access to services in a timely manner to address a variety of issues including mental health and substance use, and connection to shelter and housing
- Through CRT there was a GAP identified that we needed to include Outreach workers that could connect with people where they are at and help facilitate the connection to services, moving away from merely an enforcement approach
- CRT leadership is a key stakeholder in various community tables, including the Situation Table
- The Community Safety Team includes RCMP, City Bylaw, Griffin Security and PCRS Outreach

# COMMUNITY INTEGRATION & COORDINATION PROGRAM

A rapid and integrative response for individuals with elevated risks, often directly related to substance use, mental health and homelessness.

- Operating 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- Part of our Chilliwack Response Team; providing support on daily foot patrol with the RCMP and Bylaw at 7:00am and 1:00pm
- “On Call” for the CRT and the community to provide a rapid response during operating hours



## COMMUNITY INTEGRATION & COORDINATION PROGRAM



- More than just Outreach, this team provides case management of complex individuals to coordinate services, and provide referral and advocacy for new supports and resources – have case-managed over 70 individuals in the past two years of operation
- Connected directly to our Situation Table to support and integrate the rapid response to individuals with acutely elevated risks
- Safe transportation to health appointments, detox, treatment, shelters, court and probation
- Although outside of the mandate of the program, this team have developed landlord relationships and have secured housing for 13 individuals in our rental market housing




## SITUATION TABLE



CIRT

Chilliwack  
Interagency  
Response  
Team



- Over 25 local social service and government agencies sit at our Table, mainly Team Leads and Managers
- Meet every Tuesday at 1pm for 30-60 minutes
- Individuals are referred when risks extend beyond a single agency's capacity and when imminent risk is present with identified AERs (acutely elevated risks)
- A collaborative team is appointed, with 5 to 8 agencies' involvement
- An intervention is planned within a 24-48 hour response time

A team of designated community partners come together at the “**Situation Table**” to identify and strategize to reduce “**Acutely Elevated Risks**” present in the lives of vulnerable people living within the City of Chilliwack.



# SHOP TALK

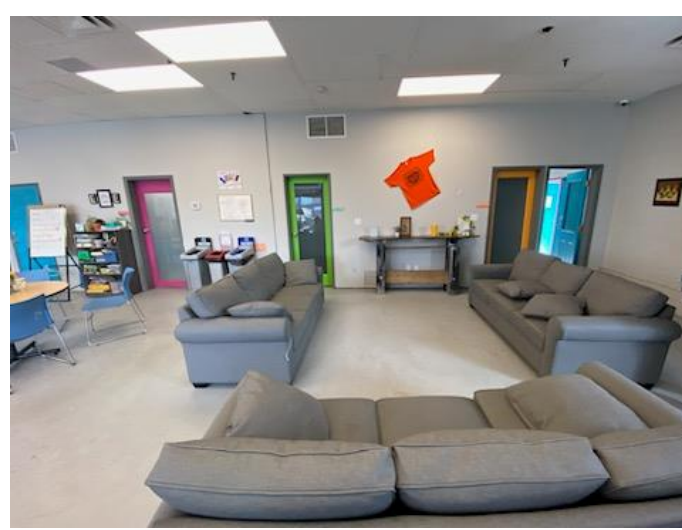
## SHOP TALK

is a collaborative, supportive model that is organized by and for frontline outreach workers

- Over 25 local social service and government agencies sit at Shop Talk, mainly frontline workers
- Meet every other Thursday at 9am for 90 minutes
- Outreach Workers and Frontline Staff connect to discuss concerns – including individuals they are working with
- Cross organization collaboration occurs to wrap around or group problem-solve for the individual
- The Shop Talk group works to either prevent a referral to the CIRT table – or make a referral to CIRT

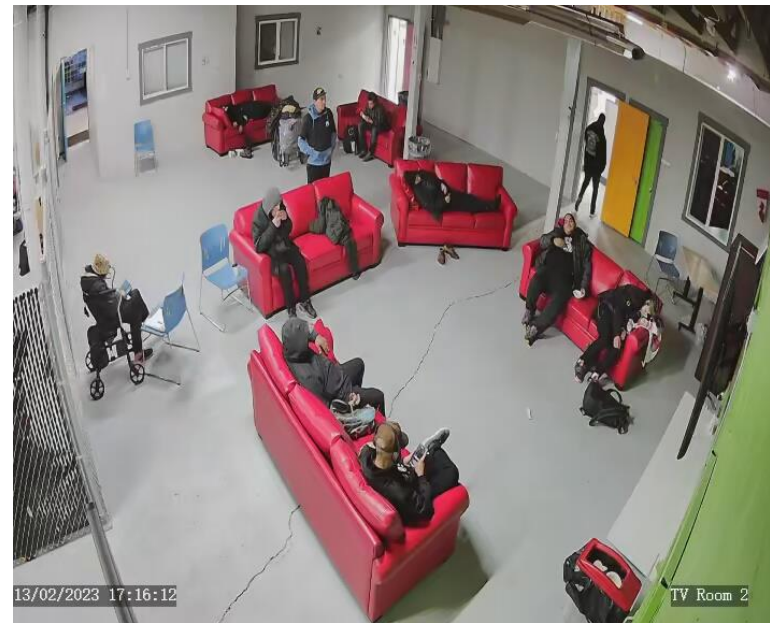
# WELLNESS CENTRE

- a safe and supportive environment for individuals who are experiencing homelessness and may be struggling with mental health and/or substance use issues
- trauma-informed and culturally safe, with an integrated community collaborative approach
- Many community partner agencies use this space daily to connect with their folks who used to be hard to locate



Open 7 days a week from 7:00am – 7:00pm 365 days a year

- approximately 2500 visits/month
- approximately 200 unique individuals
- 70% men
- 65% between 30 and 50 years old
- 30% Indigenous
- Over 60 referrals to community/month



# WELLNESS CENTRE

This one-year pilot project ends December 1<sup>st</sup>

It is currently funded by multiple sources and streams, which was great in getting this started, but can be a challenge when securing longer term sustainable funding

(Funding talks are currently underway)





- Located at the Wellness Centre
- 7 days a week 8am-5pm
- Average of 3500 visits/month
- Access to on-site drug checking
- Access to harm reduction supplies & Naloxone



## OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITE (OPS)

# Thank you