

**The Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley Council
of Homelessness Tables**

August 10, 2016

The Metro Vancouver and
Fraser Valley Council of
Community Homelessness Tables
C/o 104 - 13938 102 Avenue,
Surrey BC V3T 1P3
Canada

Mayor and Council
City of Langley
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, British Columbia
V3A 4B3

Dear Mayor Schaffer and Members of Council,

The Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley Council of Homelessness Tables together with our community partners across the region are pleased to announce Metro Vancouver's ***11th Annual Homelessness Action Week (HAW) from October 9 to 15, 2016 this year.***

We are delighted to welcome our friends and neighbors from the Fraser Valley Community Homelessness Tables as they join with Metro Vancouver organizations to provide opportunities for homeless citizens in their communities to 'Connect' with a series of activities, resources and services to broaden individual networks throughout ***'Homelessness Action Week in British Columbia 2016'***.

As declared in Australia in 2010, October 10th is World Homelessness Action Day, with over 50 countries participating in awareness events. Many municipalities in British Columbia support Homelessness Action Week here at home and for the past 7 years the Government of British Columbia has declared this week as ***'Homelessness Action Week'*** throughout the province.

'Get Informed, Get Involved' has been chosen as the theme of this year's HAW throughout our region. In choosing this theme we are inviting neighbors to become educated about the reasons why homelessness exists in our region and to understand that persons of all ages and social backgrounds can experience homelessness at some time in their lives. Community support with everyone working collaboratively towards solutions to homelessness –can help to reduce and prevent homelessness from growing.

We are requesting that the City of Langley support HAW in 2016 by proclaiming the week of October 9 to 15, 2016 as Homelessness Action Week in your city. Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley's Homelessness Action Week provide an opportunity to:

- Build community support for solutions to homelessness by raising public awareness and understanding of homelessness in the region with a strong emphasis on showcasing successes;

- Support Connect Events to engage and assist people who are homeless with access to professional and medical services and personal products such as hygiene kits and clothing, and create a caring community which includes vulnerable citizens living in extreme poverty ; and
- Actively involve communities, the private sector, and service providers throughout Metro Vancouver in jointly planning and hosting events.

We have attached a sample Homelessness Action Week proclamation that your Council can use if you find it appropriate. Please feel free to modify the sample to suit the City of Burnaby's needs or prepare your own.

We would appreciate receiving a scanned copy of the proclamation if it is possible – please send to the undersigned at friendshipblvd@gmail.com.

For more information about Homelessness Action Week - visit our website www.stophomelessness.ca. If you have any questions or comments about this request, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonquil Hallgate". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonquil Hallgate
Chair, Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley Council
of Community Homelessness Tables
friendshipblvd@gmail.com
604 961 - 2170

**SAMPLE RESOLUTION OF PROCLAMATION FOR
HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK 2016**

A resolution proclaiming October 9 to 15, 2016 Homelessness Action Week in the Municipality of _____.

Whereas: Every day in our municipality there are men, women, seniors, youth, and children who do not have a place to call home; and

Whereas: Community action and participation are essential in addressing and eliminating issues and circumstances that contribute to homelessness; and

Whereas: During this week, activities and events will be offered and the community will be encouraged to learn about the many issues related to homelessness, the community and government agencies that offer services and support 'that work' for persons who are homeless, and what each of us as citizens can do to creatively and collectively address homelessness in our communities.

Therefore, I, _____ Mayor of _____ proclaim October 9 to 15, 2016 as Homelessness Action Week and encourage all citizens to recognize and support efforts to put an end to homelessness in our community.