

## 2020 NCLGA Community Leadership Awards: Social Responsibility

### Homeless Services Hubs

In 2019, the City of Prince George partnered with BC Housing, an Association Advocating for Women and Community, and the Prince George Native Friendship Centre to establish two homeless service hubs in downtown Prince George. The homeless service hubs reflect the City's interest in creating a safe, clean, and inclusive downtown area.

The site at 181 Quebec Street offers storage, washroom, and outreach services. The second site at 144 George Street, provides access to storage, washroom, shower, laundry, and outreach services. In addition to providing critical services, staff at the two sites are also working to understand the composition of the homeless population, and what additional steps might be necessary to ensure these individuals have the opportunity to access housing and supports.

As the City continues its efforts to enhance policing, bylaw, and security services in the downtown, it will also be considering how BC Housing funded outreach services associated with the homeless service hubs, can be part of an integrated team that helps ensure a comprehensive and inclusive response to downtown social issues. While local governments can't address issues like substance abuse and homelessness, they can build collaborative partnerships to improve conditions. We believe that the homeless service hubs serve as an example of the City of Prince George's stewardship of a socially responsible approach to a complex issue that transcends jurisdictions and mandates.



Figure 1. 181 Quebec Street Hub



*Figure 2. Beds inside the 181 Quebec Street Hub*



*Figure 3. Storage units inside the Quebec Street hub.*

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### Indigenous Online Awareness Training

In partnership with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the City of Prince George developed an Indigenous Awareness online training course. The training course consists of three interactive modules. Module one introduces the learner to Indigenous Peoples, with a special emphasis on the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. Module two profiles the legacies of colonization, and includes a video featuring three generations of Lheidli T'enneh members talking about the impacts of residential school. The third module is designed to introduce the path forward, by providing learners with the opportunity to hear from local Indigenous leaders as they discuss reconciliation from their perspectives. And, perhaps most importantly, the learner is introduced to examples of how City employees can contribute to reconciliation.

The partnership provided the City with the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation to ensure local cultural context was prominently featured throughout the three modules. The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation owns the content it provided. Since that content was enhanced with professional video productions, graphic design, and photographs, the Nation has the opportunity to respond on a fee for service basis to presentation requests.

The development of the online Indigenous Awareness training program took more than a year to develop. We are proud of the product, and appreciate having had the opportunity to learn how to facilitate a collaborative project with an Indigenous partner from concept through implementation.