

Minutes
Council's Response Committee on Housing and Emergency Shelter (CRCHES)
Committee Meeting
June 10, 2026 – 9:00 am
Council Committee Meeting Room, City Hall

Attendees: Councillor Sarah MacDougall, Councillor Gord Klassen, Bonnie McCue, and Glennis Wunderlich
(recording secretary)

Guests: Chris Kinch, Vice President - Service Delivery of Northern BC & Vancouver Island—Connective (via Teams)

1. Call To Order:

9:02 am

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

The April 8, 2026 CRCHES meeting minutes were provided and will be included on the next Regular Council agenda.

4. Invited Guests/Presentations

Chris Kinch joined as a guest via Teams. Discussions took place regarding:

Connective's role as a social services organization that delivers housing and related supports across British Columbia. Services span a continuum from frontline shelter operations to affordable housing, complex mental health care, treatment and recovery, outreach, and education and employment programs. Their work is guided by values of inclusivity, accountability, collaboration, determination, and a person-centered approach. Connective currently supports thousands of individuals annually and operates in many communities across British Columbia. They also serve Whitehorse and are expanding services to Alberta.

The increasing complexity of needs resulting from overlapping challenges related to housing affordability, mental health, and substance use. Availability of local integrated services lets individuals to remain in their home communities.

The Rental Protection Fund has allowed non-profits to purchase existing buildings and maintain affordable rent levels. Local Connective housing initiatives utilized existing buildings such as Alpine Lodge and Grandview Townhomes to provide 42 affordable market housing units, four of which are currently vacant. Connective's housing in Fort St. John is presently managed by Action Property Management.

Connective's approach to delivering housing in communities begins with collaboration with BC Housing and municipalities to identify needs and opportunities, and participation in proposal processes when requests for proposals are issued.

5. Updates and Progress Reports:

- Councillor MacDougall – Met with Peers at the most recent CAT meeting. Peers discussed challenges finding housing when one is ready to leave the emergency shelter and the lack of available supportive housing.
- Councillor Klassen – Engaged in conversations about the committee's work at FCM. Interest was expressed in hearing more about the committee's activities.

6. Ongoing Discussion Items

None.

7. New Business

- The Landing Place is a Community-Based Employment Services program that is facilitated by Employment Connections North Corp. The program aims to support the employment of people aged 18 up who are experiencing homelessness, substance use, or mental health challenges.
- The next business walk is tentatively planned for the morning of June 17.
- The "Small Cities Gain New Tools to Address Toxic Drug Crisis" publication from the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction was discussed.

8. Budget and Resource Planning

None.

9. Action Items

- Bonnie:
 - Invite Erin Ferris to join August 12 meeting.

10. Adjournment

10:17 am