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# MEDIA RELEASE

**Community Services Department**  
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

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October 10, 2008

## **Portland provides example of successful housing strategy**

The small group of community stakeholders that travelled to Portland, Oregon this week is returning with some good lessons in developing sustainable solutions to homelessness.

“The opportunity to see first-hand the way Portland has battled the challenge of housing the homeless was invaluable,” said Mayor Colin Kinsley, who participated in the delegation, along with a multi-sectoral group of community stakeholders including the Prince George Native Friendship Centre, An Association Advocating for Women and Children (a member agency of Community Partners Addressing Homelessness), BC Housing, Northern Health (Mental Health and Addictions), the City of Prince George, the RCMP, Downtown Prince George, and the Ministry of Housing and Social Development.

In 2005, the City of Portland began implementing a comprehensive community development plan that emphasizes collaboration and cooperation amongst key stakeholders such as the Portland Police Bureau, the Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development, the Portland Business Alliance, and a range of community service providers.

The Prince George delegation was in Portland to investigate how a similar housing strategy might be applied within the context of the City of Prince George’s Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. While there, delegates visited a number of agencies involved in the city’s housing strategy, and learned that while sustainable solutions require significant monetary investments in the short term they are effective in enabling people to exit homelessness, and hence, contribute to considerable cost savings in the long term. The delegation also learned that the City of Prince George is moving in the right direction and has made significant progress in implementing important initiatives to end homelessness.

**Members of the media are invited to a media briefing on Thursday, October 16 at 10 a.m. at Active Support Against Poverty (Bridget Moran Place, 590 Dominion).** Members of the delegation will be on hand to discuss how the Portland initiative might help inform Prince George’s housing strategy.

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