

What it costs to support our BEAP crews:

- Costs include:
 - **Supplies:** trash bags, gloves, weather-appropriate clothing, picker tools
 - **Volunteer honorariums:** All crew members are volunteers, but living outdoors or in unstable housing situations, these funds help crew members to be ready to volunteer. We also provide an honorarium for similar reasons for our weekly Stewarding Group meetings.
 - **Tent watch:** Some of our crew members live in tents and need someone to watch their belongings while they are volunteering.
 - **Communication & travel:** If there are any urgent needs as crews work, we always want to make sure at least one person has a working cell phone. Our customers and partners also need to be able to get a hold of our crew captains. For mobile crews, we fund the use of a volunteer's vehicle.
 - **Administration:** bookkeeping, documentation, facilitation, printing
- A weekly crew with about **70 hours of work** (supporting **8 to 20 people**) costs us about **\$1000**.
 - 36 person hours of clean up/ambassador work (usually three 2-4-hour shifts of 3-6 people)
 - 16 person hours of tent watch
 - One weekly 2-hour Stewarding Group meeting + admin work

Donations and grants currently allow us to offer a **SUBSIDIZED rate** to businesses and organizations that want to contract with **BEAP** to help **improve lives, livelihoods and quality of life** in our community.

- In most cases, it takes a few shifts to **get an area looking really good**. We can do this **free of cost**, so you can get a feeling for what it's like to be **BEAP Sweeped**.
- Then **one or two one-hour shifts** in an area per week often allows us to:
 - **Clean up** anything that might have accumulated
 - **Check in with folks living in the area**. Ideally, local folks pick up casual labour opportunities with us (and an honorarium), often with the result of working up to joining a crew!

One 1-hour shift costs us about \$165, so what a subsidized rate could look like for you is:

% Subsidy	Your Cost	Subsidy Amount	Total Cost
75%	\$41.25	\$123.75	\$165
50%	\$82.50	\$82.50	\$165
25%	\$123.75	\$41.25	\$165

Do you have any idea how to improve relations between the street and housed people in our community? What might it take for you to see the homeless and housed communities as one? **Why might this be a vision worth working toward?**

Homelessness may be the most visible symptom of isolation in our community. But we can all think of someone close to us who experiences isolation in other ways.

We've found working together has turned isolation into community... helping alleviate some of these symptoms... with purpose.



Questions we had to answer for ourselves before coming to you:

- Would members of the Street Community be able to **reliably show up** to do the work of **BEAP**?
- Will other members of the community **challenge their assumptions**, and be able to **step past their fear or anger** to give **BEAP** a chance?

It was (unfortunately) easy to find **places in Abbotsford where cleanliness, safety and harmony were a challenge**. So **BEAP** had plenty of opportunities to immediately jump in and start answering these questions:

- Businesses and customers dealing with persistent **loitering, littering, property crime, and biohazards**.
- Schools and other public places experiencing **hazards to youth and families**.

The answers we have gathered as we have **BEAP Sweeped** areas of the community have **given us confidence** that BEAP is working:

- While members of the street community can face significant barriers to reliability, with a mix of regular and casual volunteers, **BEAP's service has been remarkably reliable** (we've even shocked ourselves).
- Some businesses questioned whether collaborating with **BEAP** might cause more problems, rather than solving them. Instead they have found **BEAP members can support changes with their peers that confrontation and calling the police have never achieved**.
- Not only has **BEAP** been able to clean up and keep clean a number of youth and family-related areas, but **BEAP's crews include young people** who, up until joining **BEAP**, have felt excluded and stigmatized.



This is where you come in! If you're a business owner, business-related entity or someone who wants to contribute to **improving lives, livelihoods, and quality of life** in our community, you can **hire us** at a subsidized rate, or **donate** to support our subsidies.

Through our work over the last year, and especially in the Ventura Corridor, and at Abbotsford and Matsqui Recreation Centres, **we found that:**

- **People doing the work**, rather than feeling "homeless," have started seeing Abbotsford as their home (especially as they are acknowledged by fellow citizens). As new issues or hotspots develop or come to light in their "home," they are *capitalizing on their unique position as peers to be uniquely effective*.
- **Business owners/managers** have found a solution that, while not solving everything, is *more effective than any other approach they've tried...* and feel proud about contributing to **BEAP** because, in addition to helping them with their problem, they see it *impacting people's lives positively*.
- With homelessness a growing phenomenon across BC, **new people are frequently joining Abbotsford's street community**. **BEAP** is *creating and strengthening a culture where people acknowledge each other as neighbours...* as people. It is creating a culture of relationship building and collaborative problem-solving... *bringing hope back to some who couldn't remember how hope felt*.

Since Summer 2018, members of Abbotsford's Street Community have been meeting with the City of Abbotsford, with Fraser Health Authority, with homeowners and with businesses and business associations in Abbotsford.

The group has developed 2 aims for a project that has been called the Business Engagement Ambassador Project (BEAP):

- 1) Over time, make a **noticeable difference in the cleanliness, safety and harmony** in those areas of Abbotsford where it is operating.
- 2) Provide meaningful opportunities for members of the street community to **contribute to something positive in a way that will be recognized** and appreciated.

Through seed funding from the City of Abbotsford, the First Nations Health Authority, the BC Centre for Disease Control, Fraser Health Authority, and the Community Action Initiative, as well as from many individual donors, the project has grown from an idea to an operation.

Further, we found that, **after an intensive cleaning** of a specific area over a couple weeks, changes and **improvements have been easy to maintain** (and continue to grow) in much less time.