



NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention and Response System receives generous donation

ABBOTSFORD – October 29, 2019: The City of Abbotsford has once again received a generous donation of CITYPAK's from Wolfe Auto Group announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

This is the third consecutive year that Wolfe Auto Group has made this contribution in our community. The CITYPAK backpacks are designed to support individuals who are experiencing homelessness. CITYPAKs provide a safe, convenient and versatile backpack designed to meet the changing needs of individuals who are experiencing homelessness. The backpacks feature a hideaway poncho designed to keep both the bag and its wearer dry, a cinch-top closure for extra 2/2 waterproofing, a ballistic nylon outer shell strong enough to combat the elements, a reflective strip for safety during the winter nights, and anti-theft measures including a strap that can be looped around the arm or leg

The 140 CITYPAKs will be disbursed through the Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention and Response System stakeholders in collaboration with the local outreach/service provider collaboration, who are working together to respond to the housing, health and social needs of vulnerable individuals in Abbotsford.

Quotes:

“Supporting vulnerable individuals in our community is a joint effort—residents, all levels of government, non-profits, and businesses all need to come together. I'm heartened by the continued generosity of Wolfe Auto Group to help support individuals in our community who are experiencing homelessness as they are an example of the private sector giving back in a truly meaningful way.”

*Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford*

“At Wolfe Auto Group we strive to be more than a car dealership selling cars. We want to do our part and give back to our surrounding communities. This is our fourth year donating the convenient, water resistant and uniquely designed Citypak urban living survival backpacks in BC. It is our third year providing them to the City of Abbotsford. Homelessness is an increasing concern for all citizens of the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. As leaders in the business community we take pride in assisting the homeless to make their life a little easier. It's our way of letting them know that we truly care about their well-being. By partnering with local community shelters, we have been able to distribute close to 2500 backpacks to those in need. Seeing the immediate positive impact this makes for those living on the streets is not only rewarding but motivates us to continue our efforts.”

Patrick Curtis
Director of Sales & Marketing, Wolfe Auto Group

Background:

In 2014, Abbotsford City Council's Task Force on Homelessness developed a plan with the goal of ensuring that everyone in Abbotsford has a home. While the importance of having emergency supports in place for people who have become homeless is understood, the focus of this plan is to create conditions that prevent homelessness and quickly support those who have become homeless.

Since the finalization of the Homelessness Action Plan in 2015, work has been focused on developing the **Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention and Response System (AHPRS)**. The City of Abbotsford continues to work collaboratively with the Federal and Provincial Government, BC Housing, Fraser Health Authority, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, local housing and service providers, community organizations, and local businesses to mobilize the implementation of the Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention and Response System (AHPRS), which includes initiatives on homelessness, housing, and community integration.

CITYPAK is meant to make life on the streets a little easier by providing custom designed backpacks for the homeless. Four years, 77 North American cities and 35,000 backpacks later and The CITYPAK Project has made it to the Lower Mainland.

They are now being distributed in Vancouver, Surrey, Township and City of Langley, and Abbotsford. The CITYPAK Project, an initiative of the Selma Breskin Kaplan Foundation, was founded by Chicago businessman and philanthropist Ron Kaplan.

Associated Links:

CityPak Initiative: <http://www.citypak.org>

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For more information contact:

Alex Mitchell
Public Affairs Officer
E: amitchell@abbotsford.ca
T: 604-751-3092