



HOUSING MATTERS BC

Emergency Shelters and Services for the Homeless: Vancouver

The Province spends close to \$20 million each year to provide services and make more than 1,300 shelter spaces available in Vancouver.

- Emergency Shelters** There are 638 permanent, year-round shelter beds in Vancouver receiving approximately \$17 million in annual funding from the Province.
- HEAT Shelters** The Province is providing \$8 million over three years for 340 year-round spaces in three shelters established through the HEAT project with the City of Vancouver. These HEAT shelter spaces will be phased out as new supportive housing opens.
- For Women-Only** Around 160 women-only shelter spaces in the city receive close to \$6 million in provincial funding. In 2011, a new interim 26-bed women-only shelter opened at 329 Powell, adding additional safe, secure space for women in the downtown eastside. There are women-only supportive housing developments in the downtown Eastside that include: The Vivian, 24 units; the Rice Block, 42 units; and Sorella with 108 units.
- Homeless Outreach** Around \$900,000 in annual funding supports homeless outreach teams so that community agencies can connect people with shelters, housing and support services. In 2010-11 permanent housing was found for 1,000 shelter and outreach clients in the Downtown Eastside area.
- Winter Shelters** Each winter, depending on need, the province opens temporary winter shelters in the city that are open 24/7 during the winter months. Funding is also available for more than 300 additional winter spaces that open overnight when an extreme weather alert is issued by the community.
- Stable Housing** Since 2006, close to 3,000 units of stable housing have been created through \$450 million in provincial capital funding.
Single Room Occupancy Hotels: The Province invested \$150 million to purchase and renovate 24 Vancouver Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels, protecting 1,500 units of affordable housing for those in greatest need - 1,400 in the Downtown Eastside.
Supportive Housing: More than 1,500 new supportive housing units are being built in Vancouver over the next few years in partnership with the City of Vancouver and Streethome. Four developments, 389 new units, are already open and the remaining projects will be completed in the next two years. Developments to open in early 2012: 3595 West 17th (51 units); 188 E. 1st (129 Units); 1601 West 7th (62 Units)
- Rent Supplements** The Province provides 235 private market rent supplements as well as ongoing support services to individuals moving to independent housing.