

## The B.C. government has invested **\$3.2 billion** since 2001 to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors and families in communities across the province

- More than **97,000 B.C. households benefit** from a diverse range of provincial housing services:
  - Funding for emergency shelters, outreach and supportive housing to help homeless people get off the street and begin to rebuild their lives;
  - Transitional housing for women starting a new life after leaving an abusive relationship;
  - Supportive housing for individuals suffering from addictions and mental health challenges;
  - Rent assistance to keep private market rentals affordable for low income-seniors and working families;
  - Assisted living and accessible apartments for seniors and people with disabilities;
  - Subsidized rental units for individuals and families; and
  - Housing that meets the cultural needs of Aboriginal people.
- Since 2001, we have added close to **21,000 new units of affordable housing**. More than 18,000 are complete. The remainder are in development or under construction.
- We have improved existing properties - **renovating more than 103 developments** through a joint federal-provincial investment of \$177 million.
- Introduced in 2006, the **Rental Assistance Program (RAP)** helps families with the cost of private market rental housing. Working families earning up to \$35,000 a year are eligible to receive direct rent subsidies ranging from \$50 up to \$765 per month depending on the size of their family and location. The average monthly payment is approximately \$400.
  - More than 9,600 low-income working families in British Columbia receive direct monthly cash assistance through RAP to help pay their rent.
- **Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER)** provides cash assistance to eligible BC residents who are age 60 or over and who pay rent for their home.
  - More than 16,400 seniors' households in B.C. receive SAFER benefits. The average monthly payment is approximately \$150.

# Housing Investments in British Columbia

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## For Seniors

- More than 50,000 seniors' households across British Columbia receive support for housing, including more than 21,000 in independent social housing.
  - More than 5,100 assisted living and supportive units have been created to help seniors remain independent and stay in their home communities, close to family and friends.
  - We are building around 1,300 new units of affordable rental housing for seniors and people with disabilities.
  - The Home Adaptations for Independence program will provide financial assistance of up to \$20,000 per home to help low-income seniors and people with disabilities finance home modifications for accessible, safe and independent living.
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## For Families

- More than 19,000 B.C. families live in provincially subsidized housing.
  - A further 9,800 families receive assistance to help keep the cost of private market rent more affordable.
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## For the Homeless

- Since 2006, the number of provincially-subsidized apartments and shelter spaces available for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness has doubled to more than 10,000.
  - We have partnerships with eight B.C. communities – committing \$520 million to build more than 2,200 new supportive housing units for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. More than 1,500 of the new units are in Vancouver.
  - \$72 million annually funds more than 1,600 permanent year-round shelter beds in 33 communities – almost double the approximately 880 that existed in 2001.
  - More than 1,200 Extreme Weather Response shelter spaces are available during the winter months in communities across B.C.
  - Homeless outreach teams provide support in over 60 communities across B.C. that help connect homeless people to services and stable housing.
  - Provincially-funded outreach workers have connected more than 12,000 homeless people to permanent stable housing.
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## For Aboriginal People

- More than 200 off-reserve units have been built to provide safe, secure and culturally appropriate housing for youth, women, elders and those struggling with addictions.
  - Over 4,000 subsidized Aboriginal housing units are available.
  - To support Aboriginal self-management, we have transferred more than 1,000 Aboriginal housing units to the Aboriginal Housing Management Association.
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## For Women

- Last year, approximately 18,000 women and children stayed in Transition Houses and Safe Homes funded by the B.C. government.
  - \$32 million annually to support approximately 800 spaces in housing for women and their children who are fleeing violence.
  - Funds for 24/7 staffing are provided for all transition houses.
  - In addition to long-term transitional housing– the B.C. Government funds around 300 women-only emergency shelter spaces in the Province
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