

Last fiscal year, over \$99 million in provincial funding was provided to support subsidized housing and rent supplements for more than 28,000 low-income individuals, seniors and families in the Fraser Region.

Rent Supplements

The Rental Assistance Program helps low-income working families with the cost of private market rental housing. Introduced in 2006, the program was expanded in 2008 to help even more families by: increasing the income ceiling; raising the amount of assistance; and improving access for families with older children living at home in post-secondary school and families who care for adult children with disabilities. Working families earning up to \$35,000 a year can receive direct rent subsidies ranging from \$50 up to \$765 per month. The average monthly payment is approximately \$405. **Over 4,000 low-income working families in the Fraser Region receive assistance through this program.**

Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) was expanded in 2006 to better meet the housing needs of low-income seniors by: increasing benefit levels and eligibility, including seniors who pay pad rentals for manufactured homes, increasing heat allowance to offset rising utility costs, and the removal of the 10-year Canadian residency requirement. The average monthly payment is approximately \$158. **More than 5,500 seniors' households in the region receive SAFER benefits.**

Supportive Housing

The B.C. government has partnerships with three local governments to build new supportive units for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the region, including:

- **Abbotsford** - Approximately 70 new units in two developments. The Christine Lamb Residence is open and George Schmidt Centre is in development.
- **Maple Ridge** - Alouette Heights is open and offers 46 supportive apartments.
- **Surrey** - Alder Gardens (36 units) and Quibble Creek (67 units) are both open.

Emergency Shelters and Homeless Outreach

- There are over 1,650 year-round emergency shelter spaces, subsidized units and rent supplements available throughout the region for those who are homeless that receive more than \$41 million in annual funding.
- Last year, more than 540 homeless individuals were provided with stable housing through the Homeless Outreach Program and Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program that operates in Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Delta, Hope, Langley, Maple Ridge, Mission, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Surrey.

Support for Seniors & People with Disabilities

The province provides a range of housing options for seniors and people with disabilities in B.C.:

- **Seniors Rental Housing** provides apartments for those who are able to live independently with an affordable option for staying in the communities they love. Since 2009, 120 units have been completed in the region.
- **Assisted Living** gives seniors the help they need to continue living independently in their home communities near family and friends. Approximately 1,350 units have been completed in the region.
- **Seniors Supportive Housing** provides specially modified rental housing to seniors and people with disabilities. There are around 765 existing seniors' units being converted under the program across the Province – approximately 220 are in the Fraser Region.

Aboriginal Housing

The province supports 410 units of Aboriginal Housing in the region.

Women's Transition Housing and Supports Services

In the Interior Region, there are approximately 160 transition housing beds and 17 second stage housing units to support women (with or without dependent children) who have experienced domestic violence or are at risk of abuse.

New Affordable Housing Developments Since 2006

- **Christine Lamb (Abbotsford, 2012)** Supportive housing for single mothers and their children who were at risk of homelessness.
- **Alouette Heights (Maple Ridge, 2012)** for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Quibble Creek Health & Transition Housing Centre (Surrey, 2012)** Supportive housing units and short-term transitional beds for people at risk of homelessness.
- **Alder Gardens (Surrey, 2012)** Supportive housing for single mothers and their children who were at risk of homelessness.
Hannah House (Maple Ridge, 2012) - Recovery beds for women who are recovering from addiction.
- **Timber Grove Apartments (Surrey, 2012)** - Rental apartments for seniors and people with disabilities at risk of homelessness.
- **Maxxine Wright Centre (Surrey, 2011)** - Short-term beds and a postnatal clinic for women and their children at risk of homelessness.
- **Russell Housing Centre (New Westminster, 2010)** - Single Room Occupancy (SRO) with support services for men and women and shelter beds for men at risk of homelessness.
- **Gateway of Hope (Langley, 2009)** - Emergency shelter and supportive transitional beds for homeless individuals.
- **Wenda's Place (Burnaby, 2009)** - Second-stage housing for women and children who are seeking more stable supportive housing after leaving a transition house.
- **Genesis House (Abbotsford, 2009)** - Supportive transitional housing beds for men who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with addiction issues.
- **Phoenix Centre (Surrey, 2007)** Early stabilization addiction services beds and transitional housing units for individuals recovering from addictions and mental illness.