



HOUSING MATTERS BC

Regional Overview: Interior

Last fiscal year, more than \$68 million was provided to support subsidized housing and rent supplements for more than 13,700 low-income individuals, seniors and families in the Interior 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 1,300 low-income working families in the 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 3,200 seniors' households in the region receive SAFER benefits.**

Supportive Housing

The province has a partnership with the City of Kelowna to build up to 128 new units of supportive housing. All three developments: Tutt Street Place, Willowbridge and New Gate Apartments are open.

Emergency Shelters and Homeless Outreach

- There are over 1,520 year-round emergency shelter spaces, subsidized units and rent supplements available throughout the region for those who are homeless that receive more than \$22 million in annual funding.
- Last year, more than 800 homeless individuals were provided with stable housing through the Homeless Outreach Program and Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program that operates in 100 Mile House, Kamloops, Kelowna, Williams Lake, Vernon, Cranbrook, Penticton, Revelstoke, Nelson and Merritt.

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, close to 430 units have been completed in the Interior Region. Another 30 units are under development.
- **Assisted Living** gives seniors the help they need to continue living independently in their home communities near family and friends. More than 1,000 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 170 are in the Interior Region.

Aboriginal Housing

The province supports close to 760 units of Aboriginal Housing in the region.

Women's Transition Housing and Supports Services

In the Interior Region, there are 150 transition housing beds, 6 second stage housing units and 17 safe home programs to support women (with or without dependent children) who have experienced violence or are at risk of violence.

New Affordable Housing Developments Since 2006

- **New Gate Apartments** (Kelowna, 2012) – Supportive housing development for those at risk of homelessness.
- **Emerald Centre** (Kamloops, 2012) – Round the clock emergency shelter with support services, and transitional housing apartments, for men and women at risk of homelessness or fleeing violence.
- **Tutt Street Place** (Kelowna, 2011) – Supportive housing development to help women and women with children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Willowbridge** (Kelowna, 2011) – Housing with integrated support services for people at risk of homelessness.
- **Jubilee Place** (Williams Lake, 2010) – Housing with integrated support services for people at risk of homelessness.
- **Georgian Court apartments** (Kamloops, 2009) Self-contained one-bedroom apartments for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Haven Gardens** (Cranbrook, 2009) – Second-stage housing for women and children who are fleeing domestic violence.
- **Cardington Apartments** (Kelowna, 2008) - Supportive housing development for homeless individuals.
- **Gateway Vernon Shelter** (Vernon, 2008) - Permanent emergency beds for men and women who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness opens.