

**Last fiscal year, approximately \$32 million in provincial funding was provided to support subsidized housing and rent supplements for more than 4,800 low-income individuals, seniors and families in the Northern Region – close to 5% of the households in the 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 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 610 seniors' households in the region receive SAFER benefits.**

### Emergency Shelters and Homeless Outreach

- There are over 510 year-round emergency shelter spaces, subsidized units and rent supplements available throughout the region for those who are homeless that receive almost \$8 million in annual funding.
- Last year, more than 200 homeless individuals were provided with stable housing through the Homeless Outreach Program and Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program that operates in Prince George, Prince Rupert, Vanderhoof, 100 Mile House, Terrace, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John.

### Aboriginal Housing

The province supports 880 units of dedicated Aboriginal Housing in the region.

## 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, 180 units have been completed in the Northern Region.
- **Assisted Living** gives seniors the help they need to continue living independently in their home communities near family and friends – approximately 24 units have been completed in the North.
- **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 80 are in the Northern Region.

## Women's Transition Housing

In the Northern region, there are 150 transition housing beds and four safe home programs to support women (with or without dependent children) who have experienced domestic violence or are at risk of experiencing violence.

## New Affordable Housing Developments in the Northern Region Since 2006

- **Cedar Lodge (Fort St. John, 2012)** Shelter and transitional beds for people who are homeless.
- **Jubilee Place** (Williams Lake, 2010) – Housing with integrated support services for individuals at risk of homelessness.
- **Ksan Residence and Shelter** (Terrace, 2009) – Emergency shelter beds and transitional housing units for homeless individuals.
- **Friendship Lodge** (Prince George, 2009) - Supportive housing for men and women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with mental health and addiction issues.
- **Nutesne Yoh** (Prince George, 2009) – Supportive housing for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with mental health and addiction issues.
- **Seasons House (Quesnel, 2008)** – Transitional housing and emergency shelter beds for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.