
FACTSHEET

October 2011

Ministry of Energy and Mines
and Minister Responsible for Housing

Investments to Help End Homelessness: City of Vancouver and the Downtown Eastside

There are approximately 25,000 units of subsidized housing in the City of Vancouver – including nearly 7,850 units in the Downtown Eastside.

Emerging Projects

- In the next few years, approximately 600 units of supportive housing are expected to be completed in the Downtown Eastside.
- In addition to Single-Room Occupancy hotel renovations, more than \$130 million is being invested in renovations to existing social housing in Vancouver to upgrade some of the older social housing sites so they can provide safe, secure, affordable housing for decades to come.
- Since 2004, the Province has invested approximately \$790 million in subsidies, renovations and repairs and new social housing in Vancouver and the Downtown Eastside.

City-Owned Sites

- The province is investing more than \$300 million in a partnership with the City of Vancouver to build more than 1,530 new supportive housing apartments at developments on 14 city-owned sites, many of which are located in the Downtown Eastside.
- Four of the buildings are already open. The remainder will open over the next three years.

Single-room occupancy (SRO) hotels

- Since 2006, the Province has invested \$86 million to purchase 24 Vancouver SRO hotels protecting 1,474 units of affordable housing for those in greatest need – more than 1,200 of the units are located in the Downtown Eastside.

Emergency Shelter and Homeless Outreach Programs

- The March 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count showed the number of street homeless in Vancouver decreased from 815 to 145, an 82% reduction since 2008. The number of people who are sheltered has increased by 91 per cent in the City of Vancouver.
- Last year, 1,477 shelter and homeless outreach clients in the Downtown Eastside area were provided with permanent housing. Since April 1 this year, another 207 people were housed.
- Since the Supportive Housing Registration service began in November 2008, more than 1,100 people have been placed into supportive housing units in the Downtown Eastside.
- The Province is adding 100 shelter spaces to the Extreme Weather response system in Vancouver this winter, many of which will be located in the Downtown Eastside.

Rent Supplements

- Over 200 seniors' households in the Downtown Eastside receive rental assistance under the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program.
- In addition, 25 low-income working families living in the Downtown Eastside receive subsidies for rental assistance in the private market through the Rental Assistance Program.