

October 4, 2018

Dear neighbour,

BC Housing and the City of Nanaimo are working together to respond to an urgent need for housing for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness in the community, including those currently residing at the 1 Port Drive encampment.

The 2018 Point In Time Homeless Count found 335 homeless individuals living in Nanaimo. In response, BC Housing has purchased five properties: 250/251/255/266/268 Terminal Avenue.

For the short-term, BC Housing will build approximately 80 units of interim supportive housing, to be operated by an experienced non-profit housing provider, who will be identified soon. Residents will occupy units there by late 2018. You may notice site preparation work begin shortly.

This housing will be a short-term solution to meet an urgent need until permanent supportive housing is developed at this site, subject to municipal approval process.



What is supportive housing?

Supportive housing provides a home for people, as well as 24/7 on-site support services with access to meals, treatment, employment and life skills programming. The goal is to help people achieve and maintain housing stability.

Who will live there?

People who apply to live here must live in Nanaimo, be over the age of 19 and meet eligibility requirements regarding income, homelessness, and required supports and programming. Priority will be given to eligible people residing in the 1 Port Drive encampment. BC Housing and the operator will collaborate with local service providers on a thoughtful and thorough assessment process to ensure an appropriate mix of residents with the right supports live in the housing.



This rendering is an example of temporary modular housing.

Residents will be provided support to assist with their successful tenancy, including daily meal services. There will be a minimum of two staff on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure the residents are supported. Residents will pay rent and sign a program agreement that sets out expectations for appropriate and respectful behavior especially as it relates to the health and safety of themselves and others.

Who will operate the housing?

The housing will be operated by an experienced non-profit housing provider, who will be identified soon. Their responsibilities will include property management, operations management and resident selection. Once residents move in, staff will remain on-site around the clock every day of the week to provide support.

When will residents move in?

The goal is to open the supportive interim housing for residents by late 2018.

How long will the housing be operating?

The interim housing is meant to be a temporary solution to meet an urgent need until a permanent supportive housing is developed on this site. BC Housing will apply to consolidate and rezone the lots to build permanent supportive housing, subject to a municipal approval process.

What measures will be in place to ensure it is safe?

The safety of our future residents, staff and the surrounding community is a priority. The housing will have staff available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure that residents are supported and that any concerns are addressed in the timely manner. BC Housing and the future operator are committed to working with neighbours to create a safe community for everyone.

What will happen to residents when the interim housing closes?

BC Housing recognizes that some people require need for housing with health and social support services. The goal is for residents to receive the support that they need to transition into independent housing. However, BC Housing is committed to ensuring that those who continue to require supportive housing are relocated to other supportive housing in Nanaimo, until new permanent supportive housing is ready. BC Housing and the City continue to work together to identify more opportunities to increase the supply of supportive and affordable housing in Nanaimo.

If you have any questions about this housing, please email communityrelations@bchousing.org