



BC Housing is the provincial agency that develops, manages and administers a wide range of subsidized housing options across the province.

We are working in partnership with public and private housing providers, local government and community agencies to create the best system of housing support for those in greatest need.



Independent Living BC

There are more than 550,000 seniors over the age of 65 living in B.C. and by 2031 that number will increase to 1.4 million. Today's seniors are living longer, healthier lives and they want to maintain their quality of life in the communities they call home.

Created in 2002, Independent Living BC (ILBC) is a unique housing-for-health program serving seniors who require some support, but do not need 24-hour institutional care. ILBC offers assisted living suites to bridge the gap between home care and residential care. Assisted living homes are self-contained, wheelchair accessible apartments where residents receive hospitality and personal care services such as meals, housekeeping, laundry, recreational opportunities, assistance with medications and a 24-hour response system.

ILBC residents pay 70 per cent of their after-tax incomes for rent and hospitality and personal care services. Through the program, assisted living homes are made more affordable for seniors with low to moderate incomes.

Assisted living homes are sometimes built as part of a "campus of care." Independent seniors' housing, assisted living homes and residential care facilities are available on the same site, allowing residents to move from one level of care to the next as their health needs change. This allows couples and friends whose care levels are different to stay in the same community and visit each other regularly.

ILBC units are part of the British Columbia government’s commitment to provide 5,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted living units, and supportive housing with home support units by the end of 2008. The Province met this commitment in September 2008.

Housing and care options for seniors

Independent living			Facility living
At-home care	Seniors’ supportive housing	Assisted living	Residential care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home support • Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) – rent assistance for those over 60 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent housing • Meals • Housekeeping • 24-hour response • Social activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent housing • Meals • Housekeeping • 24-hour response • Social activities • Personal care services • Registered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time professional care • Licensed

Guru Nanak Niwas Assisted Living Development

The Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society’s (PICS) Guru Nanak Niwas Assisted Living Development provides 72 one-bedroom homes to seniors in South Surrey. The building is connected to and shares services with an older 54-unit supportive seniors’ housing complex that is operated by the same society.

The development is designed to accommodate the specific needs of the South Asian population but seniors from all nationalities are offered an inclusive home environment. Punjabi, Gujarati, halal and vegetarian meals are offered; staff are fluent in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, and Fijian Hindi; and the site is close to a Sikh temple and other cultural destinations.

PICS, a strong advocate for the multicultural and immigrant community in the Lower Mainland, is the first South Asian immigrant society to partner with the provincial and federal governments to build an assisted living development.

www.bchousing.org

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