Proposed Supportive Housing for Courtenay

The City of Courtenay and BC Housing are committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home.

The proposal
46 studio homes with on-site supports for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, at 988 8th Street.

What is supportive housing?
Supportive housing is a self-contained studio home with supports provided on-site, to ensure people can achieve and maintain housing stability. Supports would include outreach workers, wellness checks, life skills training, employment assistance, connection and referral to community services and support groups. This is an opportunity for people to leave the streets and shelter system for safe and stable housing, towards improved quality of life.

Who would live here?
All applicants must be over the age of 19, need additional support to maintain housing, and be a Courtenay resident currently experiencing homelessness. The John Howard Society of North Island and BC Housing would lead the resident assessment and selection process with local service providers to ensure an appropriate mix of residents. All supportive housing residents have made a choice to work towards living a healthy, stable life. All residents would sign a program agreement (similar to a tenancy agreement) and would pay rent.
Community safety

We are committed to building a safe community both inside and outside the housing with:

- **Experience**: JHSNI has over 30 years of experience in Courtenay.
- **Staffing**: Minimum of 2 staff would be onsite 24/7 to support residents, manage building, be available to respond directly to any related concerns that arise in a timely manner. During daytime hours, there would be a manager/residence coordinator, building/grounds maintenance staff, cook and additional supports from other partners providing specialized services.
- **Resident Mix**: Residents would be selected based on ability of staff to provide right level of support to all.
- **Property Maintenance**: Regular sweeps of property and immediate area would ensure cleanliness.
- **Design Features**: Optimized lighting, security cameras, fob access only, staffed reception, contained outdoor space for smoking and dog walking, would be implemented.
- **Agreements**: Residents would sign program agreement around expectations.
- **Community Advisory Committee**: JHSNI would develop a Community Advisory Committee to mitigate and address any related concerns that come forward, with representation from BC Housing, VIHA, RCMP, local businesses, community organizations and community members.

Next steps

A public hearing for this proposal was held on May 22, 2018. Final reading of the project is scheduled for June 11. If the proposal is approved, BC Housing hopes to open the housing by winter 2018/19. **There is an urgent need in the community for this housing.**