Burnett Street Supportive Housing, at 11749 Burnett Street, will provide up to 51 units of temporary supportive housing to help people experiencing homelessness in accessing safe, secure housing. We are committed to building housing that is an asset to the community. The location is ideal due to its location and proximity to community services. Site preparation work will begin in late April with occupancy anticipated for October 2019.

What is supportive housing?
Supportive housing is a safe and warm self-contained studio home with supports provided on-site, to ensure people can achieve and maintain housing stability. Supports include day and night staff support, an important meal program, recovery goal planning guided by members of the Coast Mental Health Team, life skills training, employment opportunities, and ongoing assistance with tenants to help them access community-based health agencies and services.
Tenants have access to a mix of on-site and community-based counselling, health, mental health, and addiction recovery services through Fraser Health. All residents will pay rent.

Who will live here?
All applicants must be over the age of 19, need additional support to maintain housing, and be a Maple Ridge resident currently experiencing homelessness. BC Housing and Coast Mental Health will lead the resident selection process with local service providers to ensure an appropriate mix of tenants. All supportive housing tenants have made a choice to work towards living a healthy, stable life.

Why does Maple Ridge need supportive housing?
The 2017 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count found 124 people experiencing homelessness in Maple Ridge, a 48% increase from 2014. Of these people, 60% have lived in Maple Ridge for ten or more years.
The Anita Place homeless camp has been in place since May 2017, with the Cliff Avenue tent city in place before that in 2015. Given the urgent need for supportive housing in Maple Ridge, the Province is moving forward with the Burnett site to build new temporary supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness at Anita’s Place and in the community. The advantage of modular housing is that it can be moved to a new location, once a permanent home has been identified. For example, many of the buildings already completed in Vancouver are on leased land and some will be moved to new locations in future.
Community safety

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

**Experience:** Coast Mental Health has more than 45 years of experience in Greater Vancouver.

**Staffing:** Trained staff will be onsite 24/7 to support tenants. The operator also follows a comprehensive management plan for the building that includes working directly with residents to address their concerns.

**Tenant Mix:** Tenants will be selected based on ability of staff to provide right level of support to all.

**Property Maintenance:** Regular sweeps of property and immediate area will ensure cleanliness.

**Design Features:** Optimized lighting, security cameras, fob access only, staffed reception, contained outdoor space for smoking and dog walking, will be implemented.

**Agreements:** Tenants will sign tenancy agreements around expectations.

**Community Advisory Committee:** Coast Mental Health will develop a Community Advisory Committee to mitigate and address any related concerns that come forward, with representation from BC Housing, Fraser Health, RCMP, local service providers, supportive housing residents and a few selected community members at large.

Housing First Approach

Coast Mental Health is an advocate for people with mental illness and believes in three essential pillars of sustained recovery: Housing, Support Services, and Education & Employment.

We support a Housing First model, which has been acknowledged within a number of credible research studies as a way for people to move forward in their lives. Supportive housing offers people who have been living on the street a fresh start, and a safe and warm home, where they can receive the supports they need to address long-term health concerns, mental illness and substance use.

All our tenants pay rent and sign an agreement as per the Residential Tenancy Act. They receive the same rights as any other resident in B.C. who chooses to rent a property. We rarely have to make specific housing arrangements for tenants, unless there is a safety risk to other tenants and staff. In this situation, we would work with the individual to find a suitable housing option, or they can make their own housing arrangements.

Tenants in supportive housing have made a choice to work towards living a healthy, stable life. The number of tenants at Royal Crescent who have engaged in recovery goals is growing, and currently over half of our tenants are working on individual plans, which may include psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation or a range of community-based support services such as reconnecting with a GP, residential treatment programs including detox and day treatment programs, drug and alcohol counselling, mental health teams and services, and referrals to a local Health Authority for assessment for a higher level of care.

Partners

- BC Housing owns the site and will fund the construction and operations of the housing.
- Fraser Health would continue to provide a range of inpatient and outpatient services to support individuals experiencing homelessness in Maple Ridge. Services encompass mental health and substance use, including treatment services, primary care and public health services. Services and referrals will be provided on site.
- Coast Mental Health will operate the housing and provide support services to tenants.
A Clean Team consisting of 5 tenants with 2 shifts per week is now in action. Tasks include taking a cart into the immediate vicinity to pick up garbage and paraphernalia, cleaning floors, emptying garbage containers, sanitizing tables, etc. The team has had a positive impact on the overall cleanliness of the site.

Tenants and staff collaborated with neighbours in sharing camera footage to help police investigate an incident regarding vandalized cars. The combined video footage was able to provide photos to police.

One tenant has successfully completed treatment and has resumed working part-time as he waits to move into a drug and alcohol-free residential building to work towards greater independence.

One tenant successfully realized the goal of finding a one-bedroom apartment with her boyfriend and small dog with the help of Integrated Case Management (ICM) team. The tenant will be leaving at the end of January and moving to a different community.

Since opening in October 2018, Coast Mental Health has observed that many of their tenants have accessed health services, enrolled in addiction treatment programs, identified employment opportunities with local companies, and to date three people have transitioned into other housing.

One tenant expressed appreciation for being housed here. Tenant shared eating regular meals, having a shower and his belongings in a locked room had made a big difference and taken stress away. Tenant stated he enjoyed living here, wanted to be part of a tenant’s committee and fulfilled his goal of having a good meal, taking a shower and watching football on TV.

Recently, one of our tenants organized a tenant’s council to ensure residents have a voice. The ensures open lines of communications continue between our tenants, staff and the community. Prior to moving here, this tenant lived at the Anita’s Place tent city and was an elected member of the community’s council.

Tenants and staff collaborated with neighbours in sharing camera footage to help police investigate an incident regarding vandalized cars. The combined video footage was able to provide photos to police.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Fact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>The Province and BC Housing have refused to meet with the City of Maple Ridge</strong></td>
<td>Since 2017, the Province has held three public information sessions to discuss supportive housing options and has met with the City of Maple Ridge on multiple occasions, most recently on February 25, 2019. BC Housing staff meet regularly with City staff, as well as community stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>The Province’s plan is to ‘warehouse’ people without providing health services</strong></td>
<td>The Province, in partnership with Fraser Health and Coast Mental Health, will provide a range of inpatient and outpatient supports, including mental health supports, overdose prevention, counselling and nurse practitioner primary care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>There isn’t a need for supportive housing in Maple Ridge</strong></td>
<td>Local shelters are full. Approximately 100 people use the two active shelters in Maple Ridge on a nightly basis, including 35-40 former residents of the tent city at the emergency shelter, which opened up during the February evacuation of the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>The Burnett Street project is shelter</strong></td>
<td>Burnett Street will be supportive housing where people have their own room, a dedicated address, and 24/7 supports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>The Burnett project will bring crime and increased visible drug use to the neighbourhood</strong></td>
<td>BC Housing conducted a case study on five existing supportive housing buildings in B.C. and found that service calls to police from each of the neighbourhood began to decrease after the six-month mark from opening. Most housing operators report that when homeless people are able to move into a home, they no longer use substances in public areas. It is also important to remember that not all the people who are homeless are actively using drugs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Homeless people are migrating to Maple Ridge</strong></td>
<td>The latest homeless count indicated majority of the people who are homeless in Maple Ridge are from Maple Ridge. Also, those currently residing at Royal Crescent are all from Maple Ridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>BC Housing only wants to help the homeless and doesn’t care about seniors, families, the working poor etc.</strong></td>
<td>Those at-risk of homelessness are just one group of people that BC Housing serves in Maple Ridge. Additionally: • Construction will be underway soon on 94 units of affordable rental housing for low-income seniors • 21 new homes for women and their children who are at-risk of violence are in development • The Province has committed to beginning work on a seniors’ affordable housing building at the Burnett site once the City identifies a permanent location for supportive housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>People who are homeless don’t want to be helped</strong></td>
<td>There are approximately 100 people already staying at Maple Ridge shelters on a nightly basis. The fact that these people are seeking shelter and many have reached out to staff for additional support services means that they want to be offered more housing options.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How can I learn more?**

- Email communityrelations@bchousing.org
- Visit [www.LetsTalkHousingBC.ca/Burnett-Street](http://www.LetsTalkHousingBC.ca/Burnett-Street)
- Participate in a Small Group Discussion
- Learn more about the Community Advisory Committee