

# Rowat Avenue Shelter and Supportive Housing



## The proposal

BC Housing is proposing to develop approximately 50 new homes with supports and a 40-bed shelter at 45825, 45835, 45845 and 45855 Rowat Ave. and 45865 Trethewey Avenue. The property would provide approximately 50 units of self-contained studio homes with the necessary supports, and a 40-bed shelter that would give people experiencing homelessness in Chilliwack a safe, warm, physically distanced place to stay.

## What is supportive housing?

Supportive housing is an opportunity for people to leave the streets and shelter system for safe and stable housing, towards improved quality of life. Supportive housing is a studio home with support services provided on-site, to ensure people can achieve and maintain housing stability. Supports include tenant support workers, life skills training, employment assistance, connection and referral to community services and support groups. Residents have access to counseling, as well as health, mental health and substance-use services through Fraser Health. All residents would sign a program agreement and would pay rent.

## How is the shelter different?

The primary focus for shelters is to bring people indoors to get warm, access food and get the support they need to move into housing.

## Why does Chilliwack need shelters & supportive housing?

Chilliwack recorded 306 people experiencing homelessness during the last Point in Time survey in 2020. This number has grown by 85 since the last count in 2017.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, it is now more important than ever to get people off the streets and out of shelters and into safe, stable housing.

## Who would live here?

The proposed 40-bed shelter will address the continuing need for shelter spaces in Chilliwack and replace The Portal Shelter on Yale Road. Supportive housing residents would be people over the age of 19 living in Chilliwack, have a history of homelessness and who need additional supports to maintain housing. BC Housing and the Phoenix Society would collaborate with Fraser Health and local service providers on a thoughtful and thorough assessment process to ensure the right mix of people with the right supports.



Typical layout of a supportive housing unit

## Community Safety

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

**Experience:** The Phoenix Society has nearly 30 years of extensive experience providing services and housing to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in the Lower Mainland

**Staffing:** Staff would be on-site 24/7 to support residents and shelter guests, manage the building, and be available to respond directly to any related concerns that arise in a timely manner.

**Resident Mix:** Residents are selected through a thoughtful and thorough assessment process. Every resident is considered on an individual basis to ensure that the housing and services provided by the program match the supports they need. Shelter guests will be individuals in need of a safe warm place to stay and connection with services.

**Property Maintenance:** Regular cleanups of property and immediate area would ensure cleanliness.

**Design Features:** Optimized lighting, security cameras, fob access only, staffed reception, contained outdoor space for smoking.

**Agreements:** Residents would sign a program agreement connected to an individual case plan.

**Community Advisory Committee:** A Community Advisory Committee would be created to support the successful integration of the building into the community, with representation from BC Housing, Fraser Health, municipalities, RCMP, BIA/Chamber, any relevant community partners such as service providers and community members.

## Next steps

BC Housing will hold a series of virtual information sessions and small group discussions to share information about the proposal as well as gather feedback. A summary report will be provided to the City of Chilliwack.

BC Housing will submit development applications to the City of Chilliwack. If the proposal is approved, BC Housing would aim to begin construction in late fall 2021.

## Partners

- BC Housing would fund the construction and provide operating budget for the housing.
- BC Housing and the Phoenix Society will engage with the Fraser Health to discuss support services that could potentially be provided at the site.
- The Phoenix Society would operate the housing and provide support services to residents.



The Phoenix Society is a multi-service agency dedicated to providing accessible services and opportunities to people who face barriers related to addiction, mental health, housing, education, criminal justice involvement and/or employment

## How can I provide input?



Email [communityrelations@bchousing.org](mailto:communityrelations@bchousing.org)



Visit [LetsTalkHousingBC.ca/chilliwack-rowat](https://LetsTalkHousingBC.ca/chilliwack-rowat)

Questions for the City of Chilliwack can be directed to  
[planning@chilliwack.com](mailto:planning@chilliwack.com) or  
604-793-2906 (Planning Department)