

January 15, 2024

Neighbourhood Update

1030 Old Victoria Road, Nanaimo

Dear Neighbour,

We are writing to share that construction will be starting soon on new temporary housing with support services at 1030 Old Victoria Road. This site will provide approximately 50 urgently needed sleeping units as we continue to explore more permanent housing options in Nanaimo.

For more details about this project including design, amenities, residents and services, please visit letstalkhousingbc.ca/nanaimo-1030-Old-Victoria-Road.

Construction Details

Site preparation work has already begun on the property. Starting in late January, trucks will deliver prefabricated modular units and cranes will move them into place. We will then connect utilities onsite. We currently expect to open in Spring 2025.

The safety of neighbours and staff is our priority. We will follow all local bylaws and work areas will be clearly marked.

Program Update

In June 2024, we wrote to neighbours and introduced this project as the Nanaimo Navigation Centre. In late 2024, the City of Nanaimo and BC Housing chose to remove this title from the project. The Province is now funding this project as temporary housing under the Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) program. Through this program, we provide housing to a wide variety of people based on their individual needs, goals and the services provided. As such, this building is no longer intended to specifically serve people who require higher levels of support.

For now, we will continue referring to this project as 1030 Old Victoria Road. We look forward to working with the nonprofit operator Vancouver Island Mental Health Society (VIMHS) on a name for the building.

Community Engagement

A caring community can contribute greatly to the success of supportive housing residents. BC Housing and VIMHS are committed to being a good neighbour and keeping lines of communication open.

Since introducing the project, we have responded to all community inquiries by email, but please note that we are also currently planning for in-person neighbourhood engagement opportunities in 2025. We will send information directly to neighbours in the coming months as we get closer to completion.

Neighbourhood Integration Plan

We are also pleased to share that BC Housing, VIMHS, the City of Nanaimo and community representatives are working together to develop and implement a Neighbourhood Integration Plan for the temporary housing at 1030 Old Victoria Road. Through this pilot project, we will create a plan that is unique to the neighbourhood and will guide everyone's efforts to build positive relationships among the residents, staff and surrounding community after the temporary housing opens. We will share the full plan with neighbours when it is available.

We continue to welcome questions and comments by email at any time to:

communityrelations@bchousing.org.

Sincerely,

BC Housing

Vancouver Island Mental Health Society