

# Neighbourhood Update

March 6, 2026

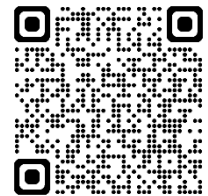
## Driftwood Shelter | 7104 Barnet Street, Powell River

Dear Community Members,

We are pleased to share that the new 40-bed temporary shelter and overdose prevention site at 7104 Barnet Street will open in the coming weeks. This shelter is a response to the urgent need to support people who are sheltering outdoors after the emergency shelter at 4752 Joyce Avenue closed in March 2025.

We first shared our plans for this site in July 2025 and hosted small-group meetings to discuss the project in September 2025. For full project details, please visit the project webpage at [letstalkhousingbc.ca/powell-river-barnet-street](https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/powell-river-barnet-street).

We are committed to being good neighbours. To support the site's inclusion into the community, we are offering guided tours before opening, will share direct contact information and will launch a Neighbourhood Inclusion Table.



### Driftwood Shelter

The temporary shelter will be called Driftwood Shelter.

The name Driftwood was chosen as a symbol of endurance and landing.

Like driftwood shaped by the elements, people accessing shelter services are often enduring harsh circumstances beyond their control. Their experiences can be shaped by external forces that are difficult to navigate.

As something that collects on shore, Driftwood also represents a landing place – a place to rest. Emergency shelters are places for people to land, regroup, and find stability during periods of uncertainty.

We are excited to be able to soon welcome community members at Driftwood Shelter.

### Neighbour tours

We are inviting interested neighbours to join us for a guided tour around Driftwood Shelter. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about the shelter and overdose prevention site and how they operate before they open.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026

**Time:** 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm; 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Location:** 7104 Barnet Street, Powell River

**Format:** Each guided tour will run for up to 20 minutes. Project team representatives will be present to answer questions about operations.

**Details:** Capacity is limited. Registration is required. Attendance will be limited to those who have successfully registered for a specific tour time.

**RSVP:** Please register by visiting [powell-river-driftwood-shelter-tours.eventbrite.ca](https://powell-river-driftwood-shelter-tours.eventbrite.ca)



## Neighbourhood inclusion commitments

BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health have made several formal commitments to the City of Powell River to ensure the safe and effective operation of Driftwood Shelter and overdose prevention site. The Letter of Commitment is available for download on the project webpage (see the link above).

We will share a direct phone number for the site as soon as it is available. Lift will have staff on site 24/7 to support guests and provide a contact for neighbours. Staff commit to working with guests and the surrounding community on an ongoing basis to address any concerns quickly and collaboratively.

BC Housing will facilitate the launch of a Neighbourhood Inclusion Table. This table will bring together various local agencies including Lift, Vancouver Coastal Health, the City of Powell River and RCMP. This group will work to support the initial operations of the site, address any community issues and concerns, and promote the site's overall inclusion into the community.

## Questions?

For questions and comments about the day-to-day operations of Driftwood Shelter and overdose prevention site, please email Lift at **[contact@liftcommunityservices.org](mailto:contact@liftcommunityservices.org)**.

For general inquiries about Driftwood Shelter, please email BC Housing at **[communityrelations@bchousing.org](mailto:communityrelations@bchousing.org)**.

For general inquiries about the overdose prevention site, please email Vancouver Coastal Health at **[toxicdrugresponse@vch.ca](mailto:toxicdrugresponse@vch.ca)**.

Sincerely,

BC Housing  
City of Powell River  
Lift Community Services  
Vancouver Coastal Health