

September 26, 2025

City of Powell River
c/o Sundance Topham
Chief Administrative Officer
6910 Duncan Street
Powell River, V8A 1V4
stopham@powellriver.ca

Dear City of Powell River,

**Re: Temporary Shelter and Overdose Prevention Site at 7104 Barnet Street, Powell River
- Letter of Commitment**

This letter expresses BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's (VCH) dedication and commitment to collaborate with Lift Community Society (Lift), the City of Powell River, neighbours and other local partners to support the successful neighbourhood inclusion of the temporary shelter and Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) at 7104 Barnet Street, Powell River.

This project is an important part of our collective effort to respond to issues of homelessness in Powell River. We are driven by the principle that people without access to basic shelter must focus solely on survival. After a person can access the necessities including a warm bed, washrooms and meals, they are in a much better position to improve their personal situation and well-being. Having sufficient shelter and housing in a community also means there are fewer vulnerable people sheltering outdoors, and this contributes to community safety overall.

BC Housing Commitments (Shelter)

A caring community can contribute greatly to the well-being of our most vulnerable neighbours. BC Housing also recognizes that this project brings change to the community. As such, we commit to being a good neighbour and fostering positive relationships and open communication.

To support this, BC Housing makes the following commitments:

1. Design Commitments

- a. BC Housing will incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in the building renovation and share a report about these elements with the City of Powell River. This includes security measures such as fenced grounds, controlled access, 24/7 staffed reception, security cameras and lighting.
- b. BC Housing will allow the co-location of the OPS funded by VCH and operated by Lift on the property of 7104 Barnet Street for the duration of the temporary shelter.

2. Operational Commitments

- a. BC Housing will ensure sufficient funding is provided to meet its legal obligations in the lease agreement with the City of Powell River and the operating agreement with Lift.
- b. BC Housing will ensure that Lift adheres to the **Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) Program Framework**.
- c. BC Housing will ensure that Lift adheres to the **Operator Agreement** which includes expectations for consistent and effective shelter operations.
- d. BC Housing will share an **Operations Management Plan** specific to the shelter with the City of Powell River prior to signature of the lease agreement for 7104 Barnet St. This plan will document operational commitments including:
 - Staffing levels (24/7 staffing with a minimum of three (3) staff at all times)
 - Provision of daily meals
 - Provision of laundry, washroom and shower facilities
 - Provision of on-site supports (i.e. case planning, support navigating the housing system)
 - Referrals to health services (as required, including substance-use treatment and recovery)
 - Policies and Procedures relating to the non-profit society
 - Training requirements for onsite staff
- e. BC Housing and Lift will ensure shelter staff conduct daily inspections of the shelter property at minimum each morning and evening and keep the buildings and grounds in good condition and clean of litter.
- f. BC Housing and Lift will establish and communicate clear expectations with shelter guests regarding respectful behaviour in the surrounding neighbourhood, including avoiding congregation off-site.
- g. BC Housing and Lift will ensure all shelter guests sign a Good Neighbour Agreement. This document requires shelter guests to agree to certain responsibilities including:
 - Treating neighbours and the community with consideration and respect
 - Not making excessive noise or causing unnecessary disturbances
 - Not engaging in activities that can negatively affect the personal or emotional wellbeing of shelter guests, staff or neighbours
 - Not smoking or consuming substances or alcohol in and around the property except in designated smoking and OPS areas
 - Leaving the property, without incident, when asked
- h. BC Housing and Lift will follow and respect all City of Powell River's bylaws, including those pertaining to **noise** (1913) and **smoking** (2232) and work to ensure that staff, shelter guests and visitors do the same.

- i. BC Housing and Lift will follow and respect the Province of British Columbia's **Safe Streets Act** regarding solicitation and work to ensure that staff, shelter guests and visitors do the same.
- j. BC Housing and Lift will follow and respect the **BC Trespass Act** and work to ensure that staff, shelter guests and visitors do the same.

3. Neighbourhood Inclusion Commitments

- a. When the shelter opens, BC Housing and Lift will publish flyer with direct shelter contact information online and coordinate distribution of this flyer to the City of Powell River, site neighbours, local businesses and key community locations as recommended by the City of Powell River. This flyer will include:
 - i. A direct phone number for the shelter
 - ii. Other local emergency contacts as agreed upon by BC Housing, Lift, VCH and the City of Powell River.
- b. BC Housing and Lift will investigate any community concerns about activities on the shelter property as they are received.
 - i. BC Housing and Lift will work to resolve any issues as quickly as possible, collaborating with VCH, neighbours, community members and/or the City of Powell River as the situation may require.
 - ii. BC Housing and Lift will make all reasonable efforts to provide an initial response to community members regarding any reported concerns within 5 business days.
- c. BC Housing and Lift will provide a quarterly written update on shelter usage and operations to the City of Powell River. BC Housing and Lift will remain available to respond to questions from the City regarding these reports.
- d. BC Housing will facilitate the launch of a **Neighbourhood Inclusion Table** within one (1) month of the shelter opening. Members of this table will collaborate to promote the inclusion of the shelter in the community and support community safety for all (shelter guests, staff and neighbours alike).

This table would include representatives from:

- The City of Powell River
- Bylaw
- RCMP
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Other community representatives as agreed to by members

The Neighbourhood Inclusion Table members will:

- i. Agree to the Neighbourhood Inclusion Table Terms of Reference
- ii. Be facilitated by BC Housing or a designated representative for no more than four (4) monthly meetings following the opening of the shelter, with the ability to continue meeting at members' discretion following this initial period.

- a) Should the Neighborhood Inclusion Table choose to continue meeting beyond the initial 4-month period, representatives from BC Housing and Lift commit to participate, provided that the meetings are professionally facilitated by other Table member(s) or their designated representative.
- iii. Review and respect table members' various mandates, roles and responsibilities to address to community concerns or observed issues regarding the shelter, the OPS and adjacent public and private areas.
- iv. Meet in the spirit of collaboration with the goal of achieving the most expedient and effective responses to community concerns or observed issues relating to the shelter, the OPS and adjacent public and private areas.
- v. Respect the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the BC Human Rights Code and actively commit to avoid infringing on people's rights and freedoms, including freedom from discrimination and freedom of movement, as well as BC's privacy protections.

4. Overdose Prevention Site

- a. BC Housing will allow the co-location of the OPS funded by VCH and operated by Lift on the property of 7104 Barnet Street for the duration of the temporary shelter.

Vancouver Coastal Health Commitments (OPS)

An OPS provides a safe space where teams of trained staff monitor people as they use illicit substances to help prevent and recover from overdoses. BC Housing, Lift and VCH acknowledge the importance of these sites in the current toxic drug crisis. These sites and services help save lives, prevent the transmission of infectious diseases, connect people to health and treatment services, and reduce substance use in public spaces.

As a project partner and funder of the OPS at the shelter site, VCH commits to the following:

5. Operational Commitments

- a. VCH will provide funding adequate for operating the OPS in accordance with the operating agreement between VCH and Lift.
- b. VCH will provide operational support including education, training and ongoing access to a clinical educator team to staff operating the OPS.
- c. VCH will ensure that the OPS will meet or exceed all standards laid out in the Provincial OPS Minimum Service Standards.
- d. VCH will actively participate in the Neighbourhood Inclusion Table.
- e. VCH and Lift will investigate any community concerns about regarding the OPS as they are received.
 - i. Concerns can be sent to **toxicdrugresponse@vch.ca**.
 - ii. VCH will make all reasonable efforts to provide an initial response to concerns sent to **toxicdrugresponse@vch.ca** within 5 business days.

- iii. VCH and Lift will work to resolve any issues as quickly as possible, collaborating with BC Housing, neighbours, community members and/or the City of Powell River as the situation may require.

Compliance with this Letter of Commitment

Should the City of Powell River identify that BC Housing and/or VCH have failed to meet the commitments in this letter, BC Housing and/or VCH commit to working collaboratively with the City of Powell River on a plan that outlines steps and timelines for resolving the identified issues.

Signatures

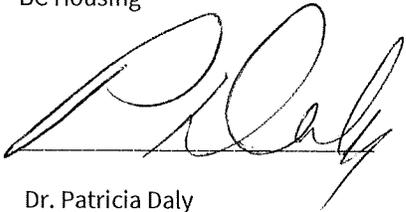
The undersigned acknowledge and agree to the contents of this Letter of Commitment:



Heidi Hartman,
Associate Vice President,
Supportive Housing and Homelessness,
BC Housing

September 26, 2025

Date



Dr. Patricia Daly
Vice President, Public Health and Chief
Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health

Oct 6, 2025

Date

