

Welcome

Supportive Housing in Smithers

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION

Monday, February 5, 2024 | 6:30 pm* – 8:30 pm

*Doors open at 6:00 pm

Join the conversation about:

- **Homelessness & Housing in Smithers**
- **Supportive Housing Operations**
- **Alfred Avenue Project**

Please visit stations around the room to chat with project specialists and representatives from BC Housing.

Help yourselves to refreshments.

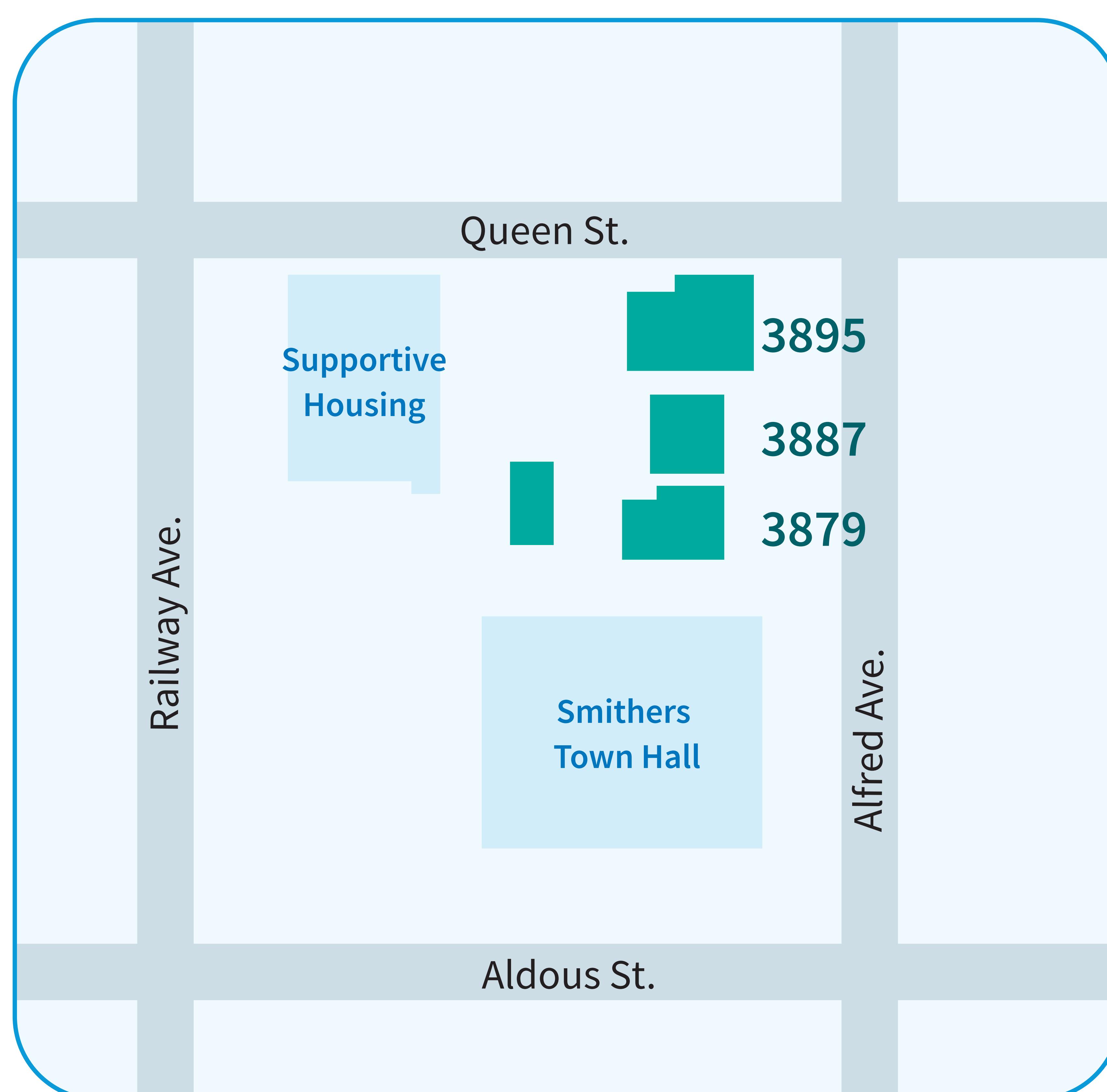


We acknowledge, with gratitude, that the area we are discussing today is situated on the unceded traditional territory of the Gidimt'en Clan and the Wet'suwet'en people.

3895, 3887 & 3879 Alfred Avenue



A bird's eye view of the site



Proposed location of the site

Why develop this site?

- This site could provide up to **40 new purpose-built affordable homes with support services**, plus outdoor space for resident use and parking.
- This project is a major step forward in providing **more safe homes** for people experiencing homelessness and **addressing and preventing encampments** in Smithers

BC Housing in Smithers

COMPLETED

55 units over **3** projects



Goodacre Place – 24 Units

Supportive Housing



NSDP Women's Project – 12 Units

Women's Transition Housing



Harding Heights – 19 Units

Affordable Housing for seniors and people with disabilities

IN THE WORKS



Alfred Avenue Project – 40 Units

Supportive Housing



Indigenous Housing Fund Project – 37 Units

Subsidized Rental Housing

BC Housing projects range from supportive housing to affordable housing, serving local people with varying income levels and needs.

Homelessness & Housing in Smithers

- **57 people** experiencing homelessness in Smithers
- **Increase of 73%** from 2021
- Service providers report **more people at risk** and **increased wait lists.**

Source: 2023 Point-in-Time count. Note the actual number is likely higher, as counts do not reflect people who are couch surfing or sheltering in vehicles and also in urgent need of housing.



Our Response – Housing First

STEP 1 Offer people experiencing homelessness **safe, long-term housing.**

STEP 2 Provide **supports, services and guidance** to maintain housing and achieve other personal goals.

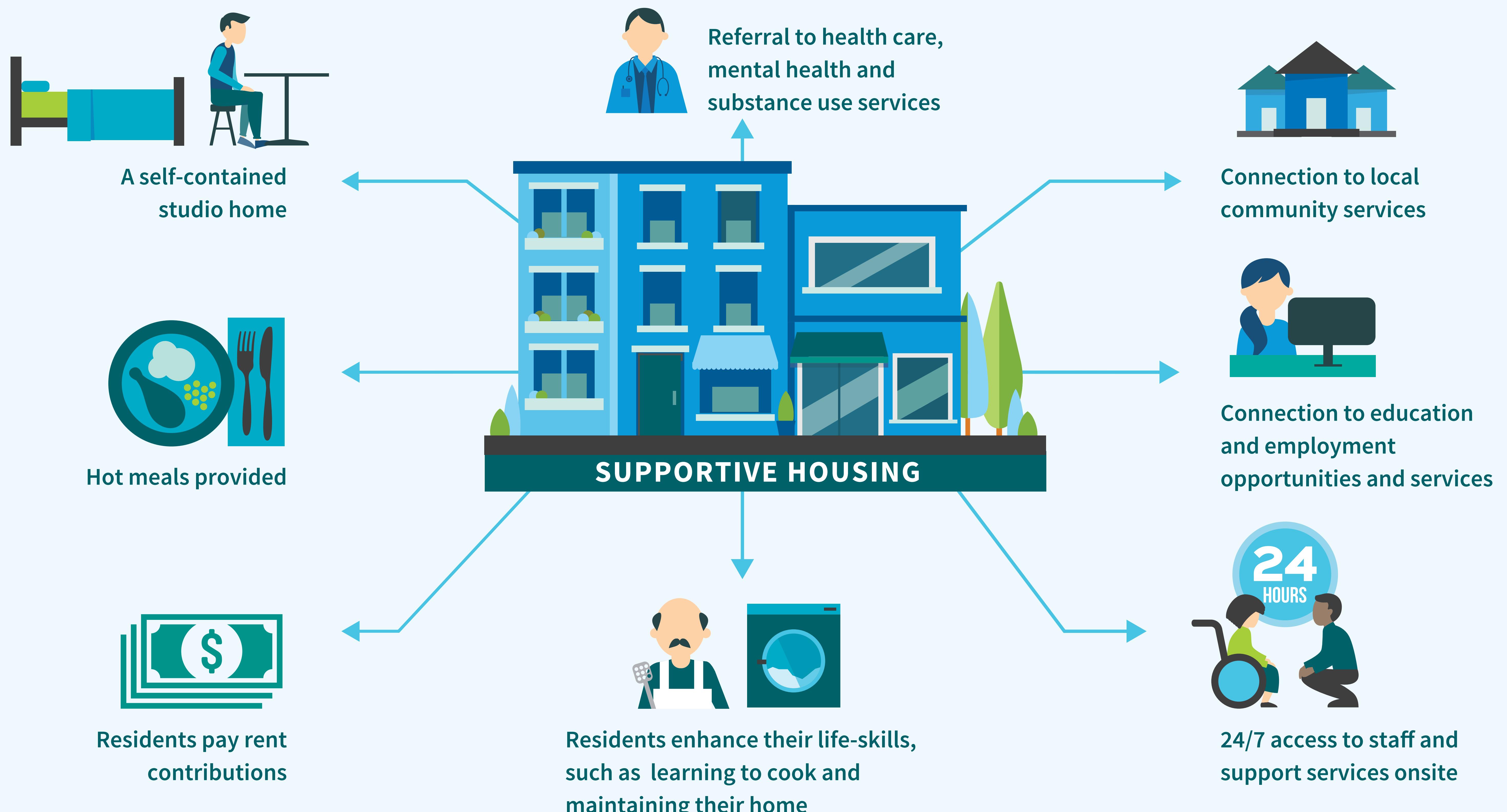
What is Supportive Housing?

- **Subsidized housing with on-site supports**
- Culturally informed services
- Homes are for local people at risk of or experiencing homelessness



Supportive Housing at 3896 Railway Ave, Smithers

What services are typically available?



Residents

Who will live here?

- Adults over the age of 19
 - including seniors and people with disabilities
 - experiencing or at risk of homelessness
 - in need of supports to maintain housing
- Priority given to Smithers residents
- All residents pay rent and sign a program agreement around expectations and behaviours

Resident selection

- Residents are offered homes through a process called **Coordinated Access and Assessment**
- Process involves collaboration with local service providers
- Residents individually matched with appropriate homes and services
- Ensures a balanced resident mix



Did you know?

Supportive housing in a community has been shown to:

Reduce health care and corrections costs by 33%*

Reduce hospital stays by 50%**

Reduce ambulance usage by 64%**

*Source: Patterson, Michelle, et al., 2008. Housing and Support for Adults with Severe Addictions and/or Mental Illness in British Columbia. Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction, Simon Fraser University

**Source: Malatest & Associates Ltd., 2019. Measuring Supportive Housing Outcomes Evaluation.

Community Integration

Safety and Security



Community Advisory Committee

- Supports the successful integration of the building and residents into the community
- Meets regularly to identify community-building opportunities and address any concerns related to housing operations
- Can include representatives from BC Housing, the operator, the City, Northern Health, RCMP, First Nations, other community partners and neighbours

Interested in joining the Committee? Email communityrelations@bchousing.org



Timeline

January 2024

February 2024

Winter / Spring 2024



Announcement

Announcement and sharing of project plans with community members and groups

Community Engagement

Dialogue sessions for the community to learn about the proposed project and ask questions

Public Hearing and Development

The Town of Smithers will host a public hearing as part of the rezoning process for this site

Community updates on development and design

Stay in Touch

We commit to keeping lines of communication open throughout the project, answering questions, and addressing any concerns.



Let's Talk Housing BC webpage

letstalkhousingbc.ca/smithers-alfred-ave



BC Housing inbox

communityrelations@bchousing.org

