

Community FAQ

Temporary Transitional Housing with Supports – Squamish, B.C.

Last updated: May 2026

About Temporary Transitional Housing

What is temporary transitional housing with supports? (HEART & HEARTH)

- Temporary transitional housing with supports provides safe, stable housing with embedded support services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- This project is funded through the Province's [HEART & HEARTH](#) program. Through this program, BC Housing works with municipalities to build and offer housing quickly to those who need it most. This modular housing stays in place temporarily while we continue to build more permanent supportive homes in the community.

Who lives in this housing?

- Temporary transitional housing residents are adults (19+) from the local area who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and need support services to maintain stable housing. This can include seniors and people with disabilities.
- All residents apply to live in temporary transitional housing, sign program agreements and pay rent.

How are residents selected?

- BC Housing and local partners use a community-based process to offer temporary transitional housing to people based on their individual needs and supports available.
- We frequently offer temporary transitional housing to people who have been staying in shelters long-term and waiting to access a permanent home. Others may be currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the community.

What support services are available?

- Typical support services in temporary transitional housing can include life skills training, employment assistance and help with accessing a range of social and health care services. This process helps ensure residents are set up for success and more likely to remain housed.
- Temporary transitional housing provides secure, private accommodation. The sites are accessible by housing staff and residents only. No drop-in services are available to the wider community.

Why Squamish?

- Squamish urgently needs more housing with supports. The 2025 Point-in-Time Count identified 125 people experiencing homelessness in Squamish. A significant portion of these people have strong ties to Squamish, with 73% indicating they had been in the community for one year or more, and 50% for five years or more.

- Encampments have emerged in the Downtown area. We know that outdoor sheltering is not a safe or suitable option for the people sheltering in encampments, or for the surrounding neighbourhood.
- Provincial HEART and HEARTH investments would provide additional resources and expertise to help BC Housing and the District of Squamish address these complex challenges together.

Are there any examples of successful temporary transitional housing in BC?

- Three HEARTH-funded projects in Kelowna are currently making a positive impact on the community. Learn more by watching the following videos:
 - [Rapid safety net housing – City of Kelowna](#) (YouTube)
 - [Transitional housing project opens on Hwy 97 in Kelowna](#) (YouTube)
 - [Balsam Place – City of Kelowna](#) (YouTube)

Site and Community Safety

What safety and security measures are in place at temporary transitional housing?

- Having safe, accessible and low-barrier housing in a community means there are fewer people sheltering outdoors. This increases people’s personal safety and well-being and contributes to community safety overall.
- BC Housing Design and Construction Standards apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) practices in all building projects. This includes security measures such as fenced grounds, a single point of entry, fob access, 24/7 staffed reception, security cameras and lighting.
- BC Housing and our non-profit operators commit to being good neighbours. Temporary transitional housing is staffed 24/7. We share a direct phone number for our buildings and work to build positive relationships with neighbours. If concerns arise, we work to address them quickly and collaboratively.
- During the development of temporary transitional housing, we also engage directly with site neighbours and other community members. We welcome questions and discussion about how to best promote successful inclusion of the housing into the community, and we incorporate feedback where possible.
- Regarding safety concerns beyond our housing sites, we work openly with law enforcement, bylaw, fire services or other emergency services for whom public safety is their mandate.

Who is responsible for keeping the property/area clean?

- We commit to being good neighbours. BC Housing requires temporary transitional housing staff to keep the property clean and maintained. In many cases, housing residents also participate in a daily clean-up.
- Temporary transitional housing operators follow all local bylaws regarding disposal and collection of garbage, recycling and organics.

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Substance Use and Harm Reduction

Is alcohol or drug use permitted?

- Stable housing is crucial in a person's health journey, including recovery from substance use disorders. After a person who is experiencing or at risk of homelessness can access a warm bed, washrooms and meals, they are in a much better position to improve their well-being, including accessing health care such as substance use treatments.
 - It is important to note that not all people experiencing homelessness use substances. If a temporary transitional housing resident chooses to use substances onsite, the housing operator follows a harm-reduction approach and can connect the resident to mental health and substance use recovery services.
 - Depending on the site design and the non-profit operator, the temporary transitional housing site could include a space where staff can offer various health-related services to the residents, including harm reduction and overdose prevention. These services are for residents only and not the wider community. Staff do not supply illicit or illegal substances to residents.
 - Harm reduction is an important life-saving health care practice, especially in the current toxic drug crisis. People using substances alone or outside does not benefit communities and often leads to tragic outcomes. More information on harm reduction is available through Vancouver Coastal Health's website at vch.ca/en/health-topics/harm-reduction.
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Development

How do you choose a site for temporary transitional housing?

- BC Housing works directly with municipalities to identify suitable sites for temporary transitional housing.
- Considerations for development include land availability and suitability for rapid modular housing. Factors include lot size, lease costs, permits required, utility servicing and site grade.
- Considerations for residents include proximity to transportation, shops and amenities as well as health care and other community and social services. These things are essential for people who are pursuing healthy, stable lives and may not own vehicles.

Why are you considering Xwúnekw Park? (37956 Loggers Lane)

- The District of Squamish is considering providing a portion of the land at Xwúnekw Park for temporary transitional housing due to the urgent need to address encampments in the community.
- In March 2026, the District of Squamish granted BC Housing temporary access to this site to assess its suitability for temporary modular housing. We currently expect to know the results of this assessment later in spring 2026.

- If a portion of the site is used, the District of Squamish would maintain public access to the waterfront walkway and floating dock.

Are other sites are being considered in Squamish?

- BC Housing and the District of Squamish are continuing to consider both District-owned and non-District-owned sites for temporary transitional housing.
- District of Squamish Council would consider endorsing any lease of municipal land in an open meeting of Council. The District would then advertise any lease disposition in the Squamish Chief newspaper.
- For private properties, it is not possible for BC Housing to disclose or publicize real estate transactions until they are concluded. This is the case with any property development.

When would temporary transitional housing open in Squamish?

- The development timeline for this housing depends on confirming a suitable site. We currently hope to open this much-needed housing in Squamish by fall-winter 2026.

How long does temporary transitional housing stay in place?

- We typically plan for temporary transitional housing to be in place for 3 to 5 years while we continue to build more permanent supportive homes in a community.
- In Squamish, we are currently working towards developing 65 new permanent supportive homes at [39900 Government Road](#).

Community Engagement and Feedback

How will you be engaging with the community about this project?

- After we confirm a site for this temporary transitional housing project, we will reach out to area neighbours directly with accurate, accessible information. We will also regularly update our project webpage at bchousing.org/squamish-temporary-housing.
- BC Housing and the District of Squamish will arrange opportunities for neighbours and community members to meet with our project team. We will welcome questions and discussion about how to best promote successful inclusion of the housing into the community and incorporate feedback where possible.

Will there be a public hearing for this project?

- There will be no public hearing for this project. Supportive housing is permitted in any zone in Squamish, so a change of land use (i.e. rezoning) is not applicable for this project, regardless of the chosen site.
- Provincial legislation also restricts local governments from holding public hearings for residential projects that are consistent with an Official Community Plan.