

January 30, 2025

Neighbourhood Update

1610 Riverside Road, Abbotsford

Dear Neighbour,

We are writing to provide an update on the development of 63 new supportive homes at 1610 Riverside Road (next to the Cole Starnes Residence).

Site work and construction are starting in the coming weeks. Any work areas surrounding the site will be clearly marked for safety. We will follow all local bylaws and share notices regarding any expected traffic or noise disruptions.

About the project

The new 5-storey building will provide 63 supportive homes and include amenities such as an outdoor patio, an indoor lounge and dining area. The site will also include Indigenous-focused programming spaces, artwork and landscaping, with input and feedback from the Matsqui and Sumas First Nations throughout the design process. The parking lot will allow for sports use such as basketball when the parking areas are underutilized.

Since 2016, this site held a temporary 40-bed shelter (Riverside Shelter). This shelter closed in May 2024 when a new 50-bed shelter opened at Lonzo Road and Sumas Way.

In February 2022, BC Housing first announced plans for the new building after the City of Abbotsford and BC Housing signed a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver more supportive housing to the community. This site will not need to be rezoned for supportive housing to be built.

In October 2023, we hosted Cole Starnes residents and Riverside shelter guests to learn more about the building plans, ask questions and offer design input. Ideas for indoor spaces included areas for reading, games, socializing, and shared meals. Outdoor plans featured gardens, sitting areas, a sport court, walkways, and spaces for fitness and arts.

About the operator

Lookout Housing and Health Society currently operates the Cole Starnes Residence and will also operate the new building. Lookout has over 50 years of experience providing housing, shelter and support services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and those facing poverty, mental health issues and substance use.

Residents of the new homes will have access to person-centred support services such as:

- Daily meals
- 24/7 on-site staff
- Case planning
- Access to on-site health supports
- Life skills training
- Referrals to other community services

Questions?

As a good neighbour, we will continue to keep you informed about this project.

For more information, visit the project webpage by accessing **letstalkhousingbc.ca/abbotsford-riverside-road** or scanning the QR code below.



We welcome questions about this project at any time by email to **communityrelations@bchousing.org**.

Sincerely,

BC Housing
Lookout Housing + Health Society