June 21, 2024

Neighbourhood Update

925 Braidwood and Ryan Road, Courtenay

Hello Neighbour,

We are writing to provide further updates from our letter in early May with details about the proposed purpose-built shelter and supportive housing development at 925 Braidwood Road and Ryan Road. This project is an important part of our continued effort to address the urgent need to offer safe, stable housing to people experiencing homelessness in Courtenay.

When vulnerable people have stable housing with a range of supports, they can access things like health care, wellness services and skills training to help rebuild their lives, which fosters healthy and safe communities for everyone.

Neighbours Discussion Session + Community Open House (In-Person)

As an immediate neighbour of 925 Braidwood and Ryan Road, we are inviting you to an in-person, 45-minute focused discussion about the planned development with the BC Housing project team. Neighbours can learn more and ask questions during this time. After our conversation, we'll open the doors to invite the broader community of Courtenay inside for a drop-in open house:

- **Date:** Thursday, July 18, 2024
- **Location:** Native Sons Hall, Grand Hall (upstairs) 360 Cliffe Avenue
- **Neighbours Discussion:** 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
- **Open House:** 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **RSVP:** **braidwood-neighbours-discussion.eventbrite.ca**

Community Feedback

We welcome feedback on design between now and **Wednesday, July 24, 2024**. While recognizing that major features of the building's design have been fixed due to the proposed use, programming and site orientation, input received will help shape the final project design and will be considered by BC Housing along with technical, cultural, and financial factors.

Read the discussion guide and fill out the form online by scanning the QR Code on the right, or visit: **letstalkhousingbc.ca/courtenay-925-braidwood-road**

You can also stop by reception at City Hall (830 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay) for a physical copy and leave the completed form behind for collection at this same location prior to July 24, 2024.

About the Project

BC Housing is working on a proposed purpose-built shelter and supportive housing at 925 Braidwood Road and Ryan Road. BC Housing purchased this land in March 2024, in consultation with the City.

The new shelter will offer more beds and include more indoor and outdoor communal spaces than the existing CONNECT shelter in Courtenay. Shelter guests will receive a range of supports, including connections to health care and mental health services. Because the shelter will be purpose-built, we are also able to include more safety and security features for the benefit of the guests as well as the surrounding community.

The supportive homes will be self-contained studios with supports provided on-site to help residents achieve and maintain housing stability. All residents pay rent. These homes create an opportunity for people to leave the streets and shelter system for safe and stable housing that will contribute to an improved quality of life.

Who will live here?

Supportive housing residents are typically single adults of all genders, including seniors and people with disabilities who need supports to maintain their housing. Indigenous people are over-represented among Courtenay's local homeless population. The 2023 Point-in-Time homeless count for the Comox Vallet identified 272 people experiencing homelessness compared with 132 in 2020 (106% increase). According to this survey, more than 28% of people experiencing homelessness self-identified as having Indigenous ancestry. In response to this, the supportive housing program will prioritize Indigenous members first, followed by other equity-seeking individuals.

Questions?

In addition to the discussion guide and feedback form, you can also post questions via our project webpage at **letstalkhousingbc.ca/courtenay-925-braidwood-road** using the Q&A tool. The Q&A will be open until July 24, 2024.

We also welcome questions or comments at any time by email to: **communityrelations@bchousing.org**.

Sincerely,

BC Housing Project & Community Engagement