

May 13, 2026

# Shelter Services Update

## East Hastings Street and Commercial Drive, Vancouver

### Summary of Shelter Service Updates

BC Housing and Lookout Housing and Health Society are planning the following changes to shelter services in the East Hastings Street and Commercial Drive area of Vancouver:

- BC Housing purchased the building at **1726 East Hastings Street** in 2024. We are currently renovating the 2-storey building to serve as **new 40-bed shelter**. Lookout Housing and Health Society (Lookout) will operate this shelter. It will offer access and services to shelter guests 24/7. We currently expect this shelter to open in fall 2026.
- The 20-bed overnight shelter currently operating at **1738 East Hastings Street will close** on June 1, 2026. We will offer these guests spaces in the nearby shelter at 1660 East Hastings Street.
- As of June 1, 2026, the shelter at **1660 East Hastings Street will shift to 24/7 operations**. Lookout will operate this shelter. Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Society will move into their new mixed-use building at 1015 East Hastings Street.



## **Benefits of 24/7 shelters**

Developing a new shelter and shifting all shelter operations in the area to 24/7 are key steps we are taking to better support people experiencing homelessness in the East Hastings Street and Commercial Drive area.

Shelters are an important part of community safety. Having safe, accessible and low-barrier shelters 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.

Benefits of 24/7 shelter operations for guests include additional staffing, case planning and programming as well as more consistent access to meals, hygiene, health supports and other social services. Shelter guests can stay onsite and access supports and services throughout the day. In the community, 24/7 shelter operations reduce congregating and sheltering outdoors as well as pressures on emergency and outreach services.

## **New shelter at 1726 East Hastings Street**

We are currently renovating the 2-storey building at 1726 East Hastings Street to serve as a 40-bed shelter. This shelter will include common indoor areas, kitchen, washroom and laundry facilities and storage. The shelter will operate 24/7 with experienced staff from Lookout. Services for registered shelter guests will include case planning, hygiene services and overdose prevention services. Regular property perimeter checks will ensure site safety and cleanliness.

During renovations, we will follow all local bylaws, use temporary fencing and safety signage, and provide advance notice of any anticipated noise or traffic impacts. We currently expect the new shelter to open in fall 2026.

## **Closure of shelter at 1738 East Hastings Street**

Since 2023, Lookout has operated a 20-bed overnight shelter at 1738 East Hastings Street. Due to building limitations, the shelter was only open overnight and could not offer services during daytime hours. This shelter will close on June 1, 2026. We will offer these shelter guests spaces in the nearby shelter at 1660 East Hastings Street.

## **Shelter program updates at 1660 East Hastings Street**

On June 1, 2026, the shelter at 1660 East Hastings Street will shift to 24/7 operations. Lookout will become the operator of this shelter. The current operator, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society (VAFCS), will move into their new 13-storey mixed-use building at 1015 East Hastings Street (and Raymur Avenue). We thank VAFCS for the years of partnership at this shelter and congratulate them on their new home.

## **Stay in touch**

We commit to being good neighbours. We will share any updates about this project as soon as they are available. We will share a direct phone number for the shelter when it opens and address any concerns quickly and collaboratively.

BC Housing and Lookout will welcome neighbours to view the space at 1726 East Hastings Street after renovations are complete and before the shelter opens to guests.

## **Questions?**

Please email [communityrelations@bchousing.org](mailto:communityrelations@bchousing.org) with questions about this project.