



# **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN VANCOUVER**

## **Renfrew Street at East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

2930 Renfrew Street

*July 2021*

Canada





# Overview

- Understanding homelessness
- The need for supportive housing in Vancouver
- How this housing will help people in need
- The proposal for homes with supports on Renfrew Street at East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Creating welcoming and inclusive communities
- Process and next steps



# Understanding homelessness

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**It takes a  
community to  
address  
homelessness**

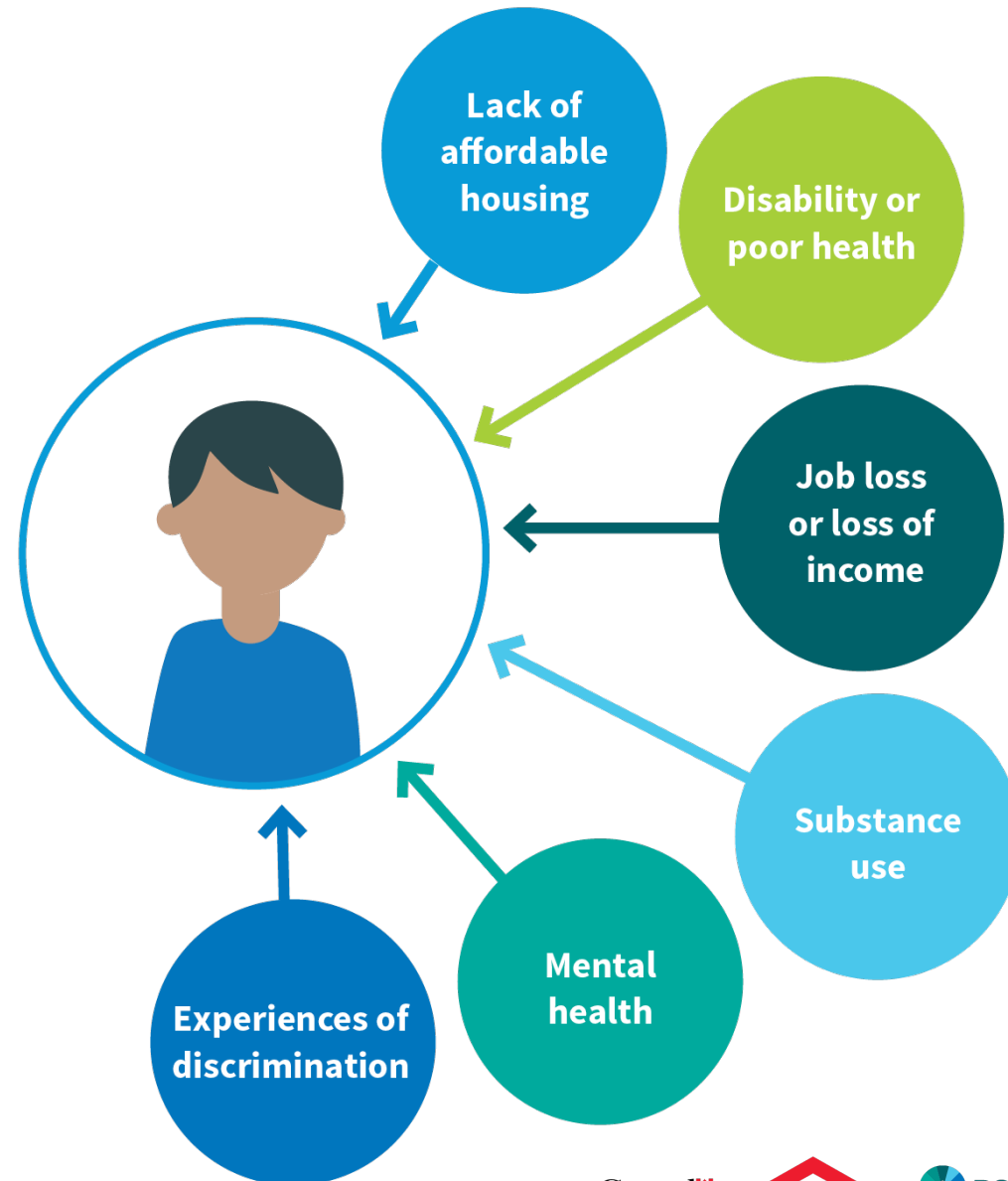


# Helping people in need

People who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness are not all the same.

They can be young people, seniors, people with disabilities, and anyone who has experienced trauma, poverty, or struggled with the high cost of housing.

Each person requires a unique combination of services and programs to support their health and wellbeing.





# Homes with supports help create safe, inclusive communities for everyone

Bringing people inside means there are fewer people outside struggling to survive. When a person chooses to live in supportive housing, they:

- have a warm, safe place to call home
- can access the necessities of life such as food, washrooms, and laundry
- can begin to heal from the damage caused by living outside
- strengthen community connections



# Orca Place

Watch how a community welcomed a new supportive housing building in Parksville, BC.

## Orca Place

Parksville Supportive Housing





# The need for supportive housing in Vancouver

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# Vancouver needs supportive housing

Vancouver is in a housing crisis and more than 2,000 people across the city are experiencing homelessness.

Creating warm, safe homes with supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in our communities continues to be a top priority for BC Housing and the City of Vancouver.



# Cliff's story of homelessness

Cliff suffered an injury and was unable to work. Without an income, Cliff lost his home and ended up living on the streets for seven months.

“It’s hard to go to work when you’re homeless. You don’t know where you’re going to be the next day. It’s no fun having no home and having to carry everything you own on your back.”

This situation that took someone to homelessness could happen to anyone.

Since moving into supportive housing, Cliff can make it through the whole month with the amount of money he has. He has access to support staff, meals and has received help with his resume. Cliff started looking for work and spends a few days a week volunteering at the shelter he was staying at when he was homeless to give back to the community.





“The need for housing with supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Vancouver has never been greater. For someone who has been living outside, or in unstable housing, having a warm, safe space to call home is life-saving. Supportive housing offers the added benefit of being able to connect people directly to the help they need.”

– *Carnegie Homelessness Outreach Team Member*



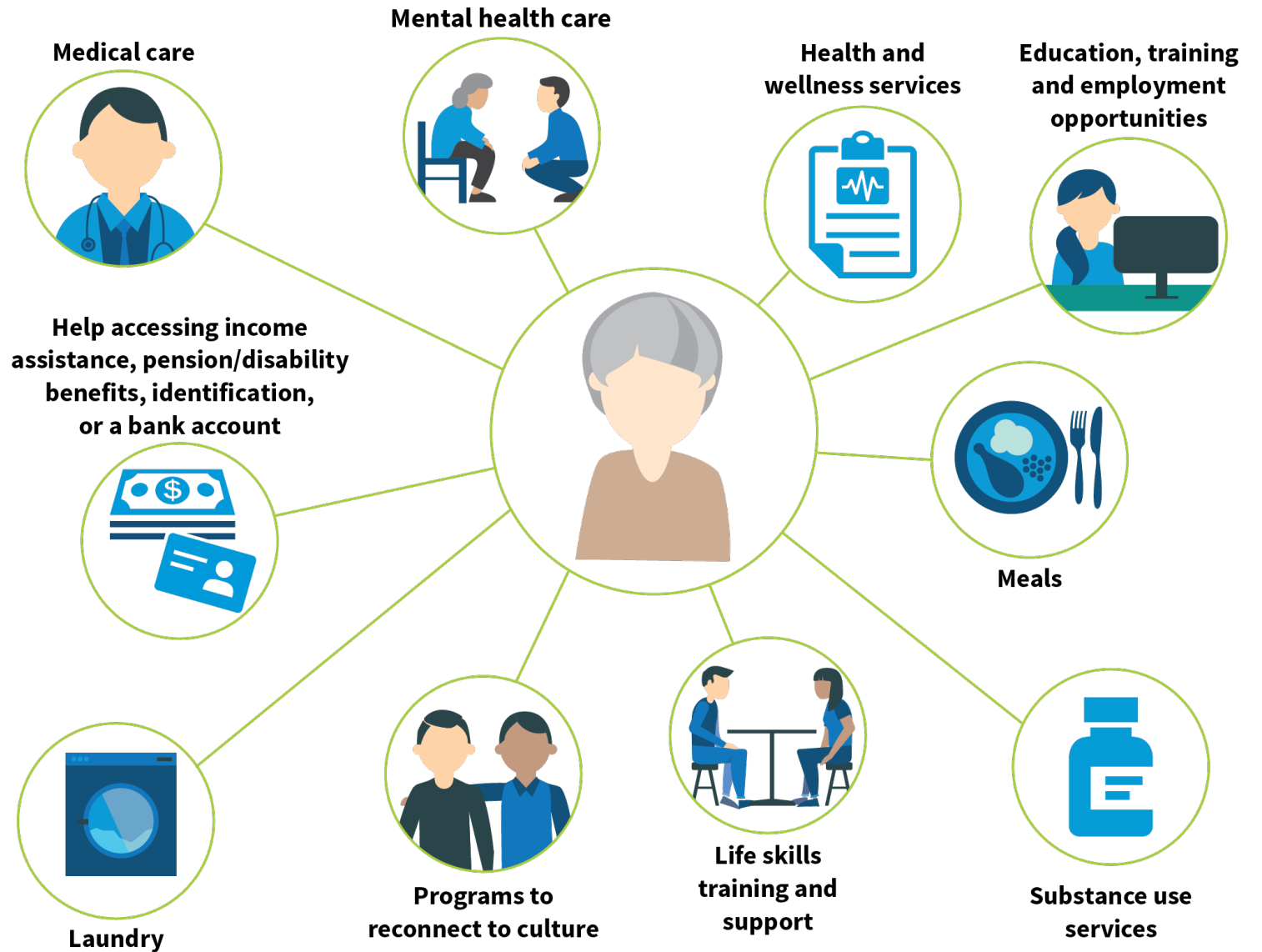
# How this housing will help people in need

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# Supportive housing:

## A vital connection to programs and services





# How supportive housing programs are managed

Supportive housing programs are managed by non-profit housing operators that bring professional building management experience and expertise providing customized supports tailored to meet the unique needs of each resident.

All residents in supportive housing have made a choice to live there, pay rent, and are able to access the supports provided by non-profit housing operators, health care professionals and other community-based programs.



## Tamara's story

Watch the story of how supportive housing changed Tamara's life.





# The proposal for homes with supports on Renfrew Street at East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue

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# Renfrew Street at East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue project location



# New warm, safe homes with supports on Renfrew Street at East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue

- BC Housing and the City of Vancouver are proposing to build a six-storey building with approximately 50 new homes with supports at 2930 Renfrew Street. The homes would be for adults, seniors, and people with disabilities who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness with a priority for people in the local community.
- All units would be studio apartments with a private bathroom and kitchen
- At least 5% of the homes would be fully accessible
- The building would also include amenities such as laundry, a dining area, program space, and an underground parkade





## Example of a supportive housing studio home in Vancouver





# Creating welcoming and inclusive communities

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## Supporting the success of the proposed building

“We’ve been part of opening multiple buildings of supportive housing in Vancouver and are always impressed by the way the community comes together to welcome their new neighbours. We’ve seen many different ideas: welcome baskets, food deliveries and free passes to the local community centre for the new residents. Every action, big or small, goes a long way in making the new residents feel at home.”

*– Julie Roberts, Community Builders Group*







**Nora Hendrix Place hosted a community gathering with music, food and dancing to celebrate the opening of the new supportive homes.**





**Baaad Anna's—a knitting shop in Vancouver—had a goal of getting a warm handmade item to each new resident in supportive housing opened by the City of Vancouver over the past two years.**

**That's nearly 400 handmade items to make new residents feel welcome in their homes.**





**Sole Food Farms  
partnered with  
Hummingbird Place to  
provide employment  
opportunities for  
supportive housing  
residents.**





# Process and next steps

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# Opportunities for community input

Through the City of Vancouver's development process, we invite community feedback on aspects of the development proposal, including:

- Building and site design elements, such as lighting and landscaping
- Local representation for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - Should these new homes be approved, a CAC would be established with members from the community and project partners to maintain and facilitate information sharing once the project is complete
- Ideas for how to support the success of the proposed building

*As with any other development in Vancouver, information about a building's future residents such as their race, gender, level of income, private healthcare needs, or sexual orientation does not factor into City Council's decision to approve a site.*



# Opportunities for community input

There are multiple ways to provide input into the proposal to build supportive housing at Renfrew Street at East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue including:

- Submitting your comments during the Public Comment Period from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> at [letstalkhousingbc.ca/Vancouver-Renfrew](http://letstalkhousingbc.ca/Vancouver-Renfrew)
- Submitting a comment anytime at [letstalkhousingbc.ca/Vancouver-renfrew](http://letstalkhousingbc.ca/Vancouver-renfrew)
- Attending a Neighbourhood Dialogue Session
- Providing feedback to the Community Liaison by phone or email at [communityliaison@bchousing.org](mailto:communityliaison@bchousing.org) or by calling 604-829-9321

Feedback submitted through these channels will be considered in the development of the rezoning application.

When a rezoning application is submitted, there will be a further City-led public engagement process.

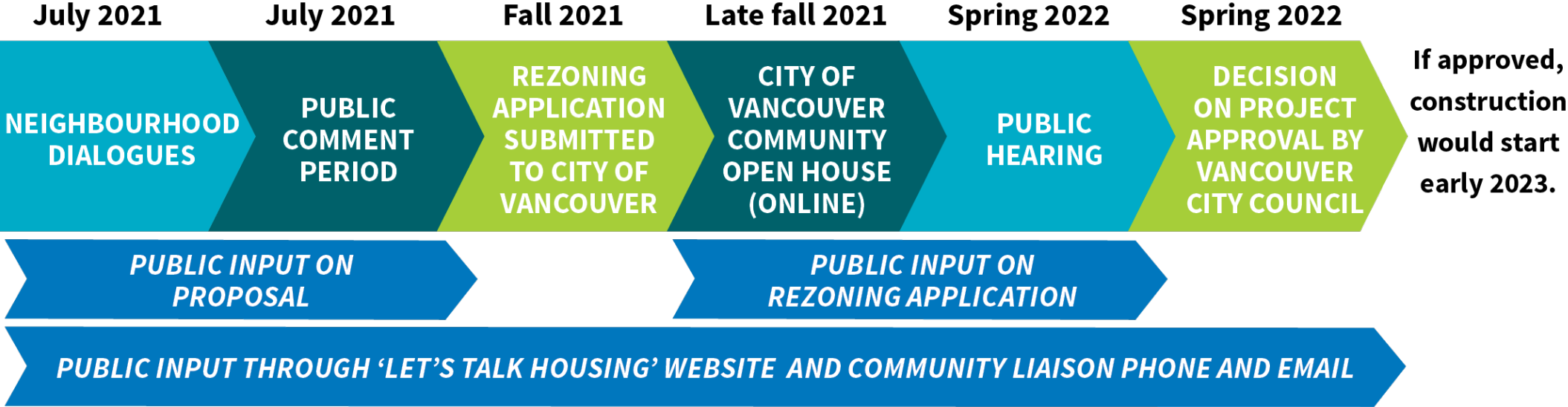


## Neighbourhood Dialogue Sessions

- July 20th: 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- July 21st: 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- July 22nd: 6 pm to 7:30 pm

Register to attend at [letstalkhousingbc.ca/Vancouver-renfrew](https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/Vancouver-renfrew)

# Moving forward at Renfrew Street at East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue



*Dates in the timeline are approximate and subject to change.*



# SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN VANCOUVER

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## Questions or comments

Visit **Let's Talk Housing BC** website:  
[letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-Renfrew](http://letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-Renfrew)

Submit inquiries through:

- Email at [communityliaison@bchousing.org](mailto:communityliaison@bchousing.org)
- By calling the Community Liaison at 604-829-9321  
Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

