

Gibsons Supportive Housing



The proposal

The Government of Canada is transferring the property at **739-749 School Road** to the Town of Gibsons on the condition that it be used for supportive housing to address homelessness. The proposal is to provide up to 40 new self-contained studio homes with the necessary supports to help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in accessing safe, secure housing.



What is supportive housing?

Supportive housing is an opportunity for people to leave the streets and shelter system for safe and stable housing, towards improved quality of life. Supportive housing is a self-contained studio home with supports provided on-site, to ensure people can achieve and maintain housing stability. Supports include outreach workers, wellness checks, life skills training, employment assistance, connection and referral to community services and support groups. Residents have access to counselling, as well as health, mental health, and addiction recovery services through Vancouver Coastal Health. All residents would sign a program agreement and would pay rent.

Why does Gibsons need supportive housing?

The 2018 Point in Time Count found **57 people without homes in the Gibsons/Sechelt area**, which is understood to be an undercount. RainCity Housing has been operating a 15-bed temporary winter shelter in Gibsons consistently at capacity. Local service providers can attest that there is a need for housing with supports for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and those precariously housed. In Sechelt, the new supportive housing set to open in April 2019 had 60 applications for 40 homes.

Who would live here?

Residents will be low-income individuals over the age of 19 who live in the community, have a history of homelessness and who need additional support services to maintain housing. Gibsons residents will have priority. RainCity Housing and BC Housing would lead the resident selection process with local service providers to ensure an appropriate mix. All supportive housing residents have made a choice to work towards living a healthy, stable life.



Community safety

We are committed to building a safe community both inside and outside the housing with:

Experience: RainCity Housing has over 35 years of experience working in the Lower Mainland and Sunshine Coast and has successfully operated a temporary winter shelter in Gibsons for the past two winters.

Staffing: Staff would be onsite 24/7 to support residents, manage building, be available to respond directly to any related concerns that arise in a timely manner.

Resident Mix: Residents would be selected based on ability of staff to provide right level of support to all.

Property Maintenance: Regular cleanups of property and immediate area would ensure cleanliness.

Design Features: Optimized lighting, security cameras, fob access only, staffed reception, contained outdoor space for smoking and dog walking, would be implemented.

Agreements: Residents would sign program agreement around expectations.

Community Advisory Committee: RainCity would develop a Community Advisory Committee to mitigate and address any related concerns that come forward, with representation from BC Housing, local businesses, community organizations and community members.

Next steps

BC Housing will hold Community Discussions and an Open House to share information about the proposal as well as gather feedback. A summary report will be provided to the Town of Gibsons.

BC Housing will submit a rezoning and development permit application to the Town of Gibsons. If the proposal is approved, BC Housing would aim to start construction in summer 2019, towards occupancy by March 2020.

Partners

- BC Housing will fund the construction of the housing and provide support services to residents.
- Vancouver Coastal Health provides a range of inpatient and outpatient services to the Gibsons community. Services encompass chronic disease management, mental health and substance use, and home and community care.
- RainCity Housing will operate the housing and provide support services to residents.



a home for every person

How can I provide input?



Email communityrelations@bchousing.org



Participate in a Community Discussion: **April 3 & 4**

Drop in at the Community Open House: **May 2019**



Visit www.bchousing.org/Gibsons and LetsTalkHousingBC.ca/Gibsons



Learn more about the **Community Advisory Committee**.