

Campbell River Supportive Housing



The proposal

BC Housing is proposing to develop approximately 50 new homes with supports at **580 Dogwood Street** in Campbell River. The property would provide 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 studio home with support services provided on-site, to ensure people can achieve and maintain housing stability. Supports include outreach workers, life skills training, employment assistance, connection and referral to community services and support groups. Residents have access to counseling, as well as health, mental health, and addiction recovery services through Island Health. All residents would sign a program agreement and would pay rent.

Why does Campbell River need supportive housing?

Campbell River recorded 81 people experiencing homelessness during the last Point in Time survey in 2018. This number is believed to have grown since then due to rising housing costs, low rental vacancy rates and COVID-19. The loss of services during COVID-19 has had an impact on those experiencing homelessness.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, it is now more important than ever to get people off the streets and out of shelters and into safe, stable housing.

Who would live here?

Residents would be people over the age of 19 who already live in Campbell River, have a history of homelessness and who need additional supports to maintain housing. BC Housing and Vancouver Island Mental Health Society (VIMHS) would collaborate with local service providers on a thoughtful and thorough assessment process to ensure the right mix of people with the right supports.



Community safety

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

Experience: VIMHS has extensive experience providing services and housing to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness across the island.

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

Resident Mix: Residents are selected through a thoughtful and thorough assessment process. Every resident is considered on an individual basis to ensure that the housing and services provided by the program match the supports they need.

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.

Agreements: Residents would sign a program agreement connected to an individual case plan.

Community Advisory Committee: A Community Advisory Committee would be created to support the successful integration of the building into the community, with representation from BC Housing, Island Health, municipalities, RCMP, BIA/Chamber, any relevant community partners such as the school district, service providers and community members.

Next steps

BC Housing will hold a series of virtual information sessions and small group discussions to share information about the proposal as well as gather feedback. A summary report will be provided to the City of Campbell River.

BC Housing will submit development applications to the City of Campbell River. If the proposal is approved, BC Housing would aim to begin construction in fall 2020.

Partners

- BC Housing would fund the construction and provide operating budget for the housing.
- BC Housing and VIMHS will engage with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to discuss support services that could potentially be provided at the site.
- VIMHS would operate the housing and provide support services to residents.



VIMHS is a Vancouver Island based organization dedicated to providing accessible services and opportunities to people who are experiencing psychiatric, addiction, and cognitive challenges. They provide programs that promote recovery, social inclusion, safe housing, and public education.

How can I provide input?



Email communityrelations@bchousing.org



Visit LetsTalkHousingBC.ca/campbell-river-580-dogwood-street

Questions for the City of Campbell River can be directed to **Cleo Corbett** at cleo.corbett@campbellriver.ca or **250-286-5764**.