
FACTSHEET

February 1, 2010

Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Government of British Columbia

Homeless Intervention Project

Launched by the B.C. provincial government on March 2, 2009, the Homelessness Intervention Project (HIP) helps homeless British Columbians connect quickly and effectively to services they need. Moving forward with a mandate to reduce chronic homelessness in five B.C. communities, HIP has housed over 2,000 homeless people to date. Approximately 1,000 of those people live in Vancouver; the remainder are in Victoria, Surrey, Kelowna and Prince George.

HIP makes it easier for homeless British Columbians in the five communities get the help they need. The project combines provincial and community social housing/support services under one government organization – the B.C. Ministry of Housing and Social Development. HIP aligns the programs and resources of several government ministries, health authorities, non-profit and other agencies supporting a common cause – to reduce chronic homelessness.

Services focused under HIP include:

- Priority access to health and social services
- Income assistance
- Help for persons coping with severe mental illness and addictions
- Co-ordinating resources and client information

HIP will improve the information base for existing services – closing service gaps and enabling resources to be concentrated where they will be most effective. Through HIP, the Ministry of Housing and Social Development is working closely with the five B.C. communities to establish effective management responsive to local realities.

CONTACTS

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BC Housing is a provincial Crown agency that develops, manages and administers a wide range of subsidized housing options across the province. Fergus McCann can provide information on provincial housing programs and link reporters to key contacts, including social housing service providers and clients.

VISUAL RESOURCES

- Contact Fergus McCann above

WEB RESOURCES

Housing-related websites:

- Housing Matters BC – explains the provincial housing strategy, which includes the Homelessness Intervention Project: www.housingmattersbc.ca/
- Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness – explains what B.C. is doing to break the cycle of homelessness: www.bchousing.org/breakingthecycle
- Vancouver Housing Update – provides an update on homelessness from community partners: www.vancouverhousingupdate.ca/

MEDIA COVERAGE

- *Housing minister puts homelessness issue under 1 roof*, CBC News, March 3, 2009 (www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2009/03/03/bc-homeless-one-ministry.html)
- *B.C. acquires 15 new properties to house homeless*, CBC News, January 30, 2009 (www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2009/01/30/bc-homeless-units.html)

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For assistance or more information:

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