
FACTSHEET

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Government of British Columbia

Reaching Out to Help the Homeless

Isolation and a sense of being cut off from mainstream life – these are realities of homelessness. In addition, many homeless people struggle with mental health issues and addictions. As a result, homeless people face stiff challenges in accessing support and resources available in their communities. Mindful of this reality, the Province created a Homeless Outreach Program, including a component focused on outreach for homeless Aboriginal people. The outreach program helps connect homeless British Columbians with support services they need in their local communities.

Homeless Outreach Program

- Through BC Housing, the Province provides \$6.2 million in annual funding to support Homeless Outreach teams in 49 communities. This includes \$500,000 for the Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program.
- More than 7,800 people have been housed as a result of the outreach work.
- The total funding allotment for the Homeless Outreach Program in the City of Vancouver is \$970,000. Two service providers are located in the Downtown Eastside: *RainCity Housing and Support Society* and *Carnegie Outreach*.
- Employment and Income Assistance funds about 30 outreach workers throughout the province at a cost of approximately \$3 million.
- Workers with the Homeless Outreach Program help homeless persons take steps toward improving their quality of life and regaining their independence.

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

- *Shelters, supplies beefed up for new cold front, Vancouver Sun Dec 5, 2009*
<http://www.globaltvbc.com/world/Shelters+supplies+beefed+cold+front/2306917/story.html>
- *Homeless get help to find shelter – The Daily News, Nanaimo October 19, 2009*
<http://www2.canada.com/nanaimodailynews/news/story.html?id=281d745b-db11-4415-85c0-eca946003615&p=2>

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For assistance or more information:

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