
FACTSHEET

February 1, 2010

Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Government of British Columbia

Olympic Housing Initiatives

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games created opportunities for British Columbians across the province to realize tangible benefits through investments in communities and infrastructure. Permanent, affordable housing for people in need across B.C., including Vancouver's inner-city neighbourhoods, represents a major 2010 benefit.

- Vancouver's 2010 Olympic Bid incorporated a range of commitments to social and economic initiatives, including affordable housing development.
- The Olympic partners – the B.C. provincial government, the Canadian government, the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) – have made steady progress meeting housing commitments since the International Olympic Committee approved the 2010 Bid in 2003.
- The Province exceeded its original goal to buy or lease 800 units of existing rental housing to create more affordable accommodation. To date, the B.C. provincial government has acquired approximately 1,480 single occupancy rooms in Vancouver – a significant addition to the supply of affordable housing stock in urban neighbourhoods.
- Since 2001, the government has completed more than 13,800 new units of housing.
- Additionally, the Province is investing in approximately 1,400 long-term, supportive housing units on 14 sites owned by the City of Vancouver – including several in the Downtown Eastside (DTES).
- The Province currently provides more than \$30 million annually to subsidize over 7,000 units of social and supportive housing, managed by non-profit societies, housing co-ops or BC Housing in the DTES.

CONTACTS

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BC Housing

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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

- *Tenant loves renovated SRO in Downtown Eastside*, CKNW, Dec. 12, 2008 (transcript available/attached)
- *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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