
FACTSHEET

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Government of British Columbia

Single Room Occupancy Hotels

Single room occupancy (SRO) hotels represent an important source of affordable housing stock in Vancouver, including the Downtown Eastside – and other urban centres in British Columbia. To help ensure that this supply of housing is not lost through urban re-development, the B.C. provincial government purchased 26 SRO hotels, located in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria. These acquisitions make about 1,550 rooms for people who could otherwise face homelessness.

The Province of British Columbia spent about \$92 million to buy SRO hotels. In addition, the provincial government is investing a further \$57 million in renovations and upgrades.

Examples of SRO investments include:

- Renovation and re-opening of 265 units of upgraded social housing at several Vancouver SROs, including the Carl Rooms, Dominion, Rainier, Walton, Savoy and Beacon hotels.
- Renovations are nearing completion at the Orwell, St. Helen's and Marble Arch hotels – representing another 168 units of upgraded social housing.

Most SROs purchased by the Province will be occupied during 2010, providing safe, secure and affordable housing to people who lived on the street or sought temporary refuge in emergency shelters. In addition, SRO residents can receive services and support from non-profit agencies that manage the hotels.

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:

- BC Housing Home Page – provides information on social housing:
<http://www.bchousing.org>
- Single Room Occupancy Hotels – www.bchousing.org/programs/SRO
- Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness – explains what B.C. is doing to break the cycle of homelessness: www.bchousing.org/breakingthecycle

MEDIA COVERAGE

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