
FACTSHEET

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Government of British Columbia

Transition Houses

Transition houses in British Columbia offer refuge to women and children experiencing abuse in their homes. The B.C. provincial government funds 63 transition houses – all providing 24-hour staffing and support. Transition houses represent an invaluable, timely resource for women and their children who need a place to go to avoid domestic violence.

Women and children staying in transition houses can access social housing through the Priority Placement Program. Counsellors connect women with support programs and referrals to help them build new, healthy lives. In addition, counsellors check in regularly with their clients to ensure everyone is safe from harm.

- The Province is strongly committed to providing housing programs and support services for women and children, with a priority on local services at the community level.
- BC Housing, a provincial Crown agency, manages the transition house program.
- B.C.'s 63 transition houses provide 664 beds in 57 communities.
- A \$50-million 2009/10 budget commitment for community programs includes \$35 million for transition houses, \$7.7 million for counselling and \$4.9 million for counselling specifically for children who witness abuse.
- In 2008, approximately 13,000 women and children took shelter at transition houses – 12,000 people received counselling and another 25,000 accessed outreach and multicultural services.
- In total, 255 programs offer counselling and support to women fleeing violence – including 98 Stopping the Violence counselling programs and 89 Children Who Witness Abuse counselling programs – in addition to 56 outreach and 12 multicultural outreach programs.
- Transition houses provide temporary housing for women and children fleeing abusive relationships with a maximum stay of 30 days.

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

- Video resources are limited due to the sensitive nature of the work of Transition Houses.

WEB RESOURCES

Housing-related websites:

- Housing Matters BC – www.housingmattersbc.ca/
- BC Housing – www.bchousing.org

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For assistance or more information:

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