
FACTSHEET

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Government of British Columbia

The Woodward's Building

A landmark structure in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES), the Woodward's building today stands as a symbol of urban revitalization, bringing new social housing to a neighbourhood where the need is great. Purchase of the building by the Province in 2001 for \$22 million, then by the City of Vancouver in 2003 set the stage for a \$400-million renewal project. The new Woodward's building, slated for completion in 2010, includes 536 market housing units, 125 singles social housing units operated by PHS Community Services and 75 family social housing units operated by the Affordable Housing Society. Other occupants include businesses, service providers and the 130,000-square foot School for the Contemporary Arts – part of the Simon Fraser University downtown campus.

The Woodward's Building and the DTES

- Housing Matters BC, the Province's housing strategy, strives to reduce homelessness and ensure access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing today and into the future.
- The provincial housing strategy has helped bolster social housing in the DTES.
- As of September 30, 2009, there are approximately 26,500 units of subsidized housing in the City of Vancouver funded by the provincial government through a variety of programs.
- 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.
- A further 317 units of supportive housing in the DTES will be opening during the next few years – 117 units at the Doorways of Hope and 200 units at the Woodward's site.
- Additionally, the Province is investing in approximately 1,400 long-term, supportive housing units on 14 sites owned by the City of Vancouver – several are located in the DTES.
- To date, the Province has purchased 24 Vancouver single room occupancy hotels, protecting approximately 1,480 units of affordable housing (including 1,280 in the DTES) for people in greatest need.

CONTACTS

Fergus McCann

Manager, Media and Community Relations

BC Housing

778 452-6445 (work)

604 561-4375 (cell)

fmccann@bchousing.org

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:

- Woodward's: A New Beginning: www.vancouver.ca/bps/realestate/woodwards/
- Housing Matters BC – explains the provincial housing strategy, which includes the Homelessness Intervention Project: www.housingmattersbc.ca/

MEDIA COVERAGE

- *Woodward's owners moving in* The Province – August 21, 2009
<http://www.6717000.com/newsArticle-6086.html>

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For assistance or more information:

Seumas Gordon

Media Relations Officer

Ministry of Housing and Social Development

250 387-6490

Seumas.Gordon@gov.bc.ca