

HOUSING MATTERS BC

Services and Supports for the Homeless: Victoria

Over \$13 million was provided last year to support nearly 990 housing units for the homeless or at risk of homelessness in Victoria.

Emergency Shelters	<p>Through the Emergency Shelter Program there are nearly 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rock Bay Landing, with 86 shelter beds• The Salvation Army, with 21 beds• Sandy Merriman House, with 25 beds for women only• Next Steps, with 15 beds
Extreme Weather Shelters	<p>Last winter, approximately 145 additional shelter spaces were available across the Capital Regional District to increase emergency shelter space when extreme weather conditions threatened the safety and health of individuals.</p> <p>Communities decide what conditions warrant an Extreme Weather Alert, when to activate a location and how many spaces to make available on a given night, depending on capacity at existing shelters.</p>
Winter Response Shelters	<p>Each winter, depending on need, the Province opens temporary winter shelters in Victoria that are available 24/7 during the winter months.</p>
Homeless Outreach	<p>Last year, our Homeless outreach and shelter workers connected more than 400 people who were homeless with housing and support services in Victoria.</p>
Drop-In Centre	<p>The daytime drop-in centre at Our Place operates with \$500,000 in funding from the B.C. government. In addition, the Province provided \$125,000 in one time funding to help Our Place stay open longer.</p>
Aboriginal Housing	<p>There are more than 135 housing units designated for Aboriginal housing in Victoria.</p>
Stable Housing	<p>Since 2001, the B.C. government has developed or preserved close to 1,200 units of affordable housing in Victoria, including nearly 440 subsidized or supportive units for people who are homeless or at risk.</p> <p>The B.C. government partnered with the City of Victoria to build new supportive units for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including three new and upgraded developments, all of which are now open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rock Bay Landing (23 supportive housing units and 86 emergency shelter beds)• Camas Gardens (44 units)• Swift House (23 units)
Rent Supplements	<p>The Province provides more than 430 homeless rent supplements – monthly cash benefits that help keep private market rentals more affordable.</p>
