

# HOUSING MATTERS BC

## Services and Supports for the Homeless

Last year, the Province provided over **\$203 million** for more than **14,000** emergency shelter spaces, subsidized units and rent supplements to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across British Columbia.

In 2006, the B.C. government launched [Housing Matters BC](#) and expanded the range of housing options to help ensure individuals who are homeless or at risk have access to housing and support services.

### Shelters

We provide approximately \$72 million annually to fund close to 1,990 permanent year-round shelter beds in nearly 35 communities – more than double the approximately 880 beds that existed in 2001.

- Ninety-five per cent of permanent shelter beds are available 24/7 and 95 per cent provide three meals a day.
- Last winter, the B.C. government provided up to \$2.1 million to make close to 1,200 Extreme Weather Response shelter spaces available during the winter months in communities across B.C.

### Supportive Housing and SROs

We have created more than 6,900 new and upgraded supportive housing units and shelter beds, including:

- The Province has worked in partnership with eight municipalities – Abbotsford, Campbell River, Kelowna, Maple Ridge, Nanaimo, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria – to provide close to \$500 million to build more than 2,000 new supportive housing units for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (Close to 1,400 of the new units are in Vancouver). (Check out the [Homeless Supportive Housing list](#)).
- Investing \$150 million to acquire and renovate 26 Single Room Occupancy hotels in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria – protecting approximately 1,400 affordable rooms. Recent partnership with the federal government will see a further \$143.3 million to [renovate 13 SRO hotels](#).

*As of March 2016, there were more than 440 new housing units for people who were homeless or at risk in development or under construction across B.C.*

### Homeless Outreach

- Outreach teams provide support in [nearly 65 communities](#), connecting homeless people with permanent housing and a range of community services. Aboriginal outreach teams provide support in 17 of those communities.
- Last year, provincially funded outreach and shelter workers connected more than 7,100 homeless people to housing, income assistance and a range of support services.

## Housing Matters BC strategy is working:

Since 2006, the number of provincially funded apartments and shelter spaces available for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness has more than doubled.

There are now more than 14,000 housing units for people who are homeless, including:

- Close to 1,990 permanent, year round homeless shelter beds (including close to 1,820 funded through the Emergency Shelter Program)
- Over 8,780 subsidized or supportive housing units for people who are homeless or homeless at risk
- More than 3,230 homeless rent supplements, including nearly 1,520 rent supplements provided through the new [Homeless Prevention Program](#).