

The City of Vancouver has been helping Vancouver residents find affordable, suitable housing for more than 50 years. The City's role in housing has changed over time, but the commitment remains the same – to assist families and individuals who are unable to afford housing in the private market.

social housing in new communities

City of Vancouver Housing Centre

Vancouver is a very attractive place to live and work. Between 1991 and 1996, the City's population grew by 42,000, about 1.7% per year. Although the rate of increase has slowed in the late 1990s, long term projections indicate there will be renewed population and employment growth.

In the late 1980s, the City decided to increase housing capacity by planning "new communities". Most of these are areas of underused industrial land. Earlier in the City's life, they were home to primary and secondary industries. With Vancouver's shift to a service-based economy in the past 30 years, much of the land has become surplus and ready to

be redeveloped for housing and commercial uses.

The largest of the new communities are located close to downtown – False Creek North, CityGate, Southeast False Creek and Coal Harbour. Other areas include the Arbutus Lands, Fraser Lands and the Joyce/Vanness areas.

The City has worked closely with developers in these areas to produce a housing mix suited to people with a range of incomes, household sizes and lifestyles.

Social Housing in New Communities

Since 1988, the City has required 20% of the units in major residential projects to be social

housing. This encourages balanced communities and ensures that people with low and moderate incomes live in well-planned, conveniently located neighbourhoods. By mid-1998, almost 800 social housing dwellings had been built or committed as a direct result of the 20% policy.

Initially, the 20% requirement focussed on "core need households" – households which have incomes too low to allow them to rent suitable, adequate housing without paying 30% or more of their income for shelter. At that time, it was estimated that 20% of the households in the Vancouver region were in core need. The
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Fifty Years

over fifty years of helping Vancouver residents through housing programs and partnerships

