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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 12/14/2022 10:23:20 AM
Subject: Provincial announcement re housing

Good morning Mayor and Council,

As per the note I sent yesterday evening, Premier David Eby alongside Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing and Melanie Mark, MLA for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant will be making an announcement later today regarding the two new modular buildings designed to support those experiencing homelessness and living in shelters. The event will occur at 1500 Main Street on Dec 14 at 2:30 pm. The Mayor will also be attendance and will provide remarks.

For your information, additional details regarding the announcement event and the modular projects, as well as key messages, are set out below

Event information:

1500 Main St.

Dial-in information:

From anywhere in B.C. and Canada, toll-free: 1 888 892-3255

Participant pass code: 658242

Livestream will be available on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BCGovNews?s=20>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ProvinceofBC>

Project background

- The City of Vancouver is partnering with BC Housing to bring approximately 29 new transitional, fixed-term homes to 2132 Ash Street and 60 new transitional, fixed-term homes at 1500 Main Street.
- This new project will follow the bridge-to-housing model and will offer people experiencing homelessness and living in shelters with a private room and shared laundry, bathroom and kitchen spaces. There will be 24/7 staffing, access to health services and other supports.
- Bridge-to-housing provides temporary accommodation to those experiencing homelessness in our shelter system as a transitional step while other permanent supportive housing projects are in development. Selection for the temporary bridge-to-housing buildings would be prioritized based on applicant's individual need and will be first offered to those currently living in the shelter system.
- These buildings are being designed using re-purposed workforce modular lodging to help rapidly address the critical need in Vancouver for more indoor spaces for those experiencing homelessness and waiting for housing in shelters in Vancouver. This includes those who were sleeping overnight along Hastings Street, in Crab Park, and more broadly in Vancouver and are now in shelters.
- BC Housing is planning to start work in mid-December 2022 and to move people in by Spring 2023. The buildings will be here for three years and two more years could be added, if needed.

Next Steps

- The Province, BC Housing, City of Vancouver and other partners continue to respond to the encampment on Hastings Street and CRAB Park and working to ensure we're offering indoor options, with health, social and community supports where appropriate, that will sustain people over the long-term.
- This work includes bringing people into the shelter system so we can get to know their needs and build trust, and then support them to transition into homes with support services as units become available.

Hastings Update

- As the weather continues to be cold and with the holidays approaching, the City continues to approach our work in a manner that respects the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness, while remaining committed to maintaining the safety, cleanliness and accessibility of City streets in the Downtown Eastside (DTES).
- The outreach team continues their work encouraging individuals to come inside and stay dry and warm in shelter space throughout the winter. As more supportive housing and SRO spaces come online, partners will continue to offer available and suitable housing to people in shelters and those who are unhoused in Vancouver.
- Engineering crews will continue to work to clear the sidewalks and enforce the by-law in response to ongoing safety concerns and with a particular focus on sites where the main purpose is vending or other activities. As they do this work, staff will ensure that anyone occupying that site without housing is offered an opportunity to come indoors.
- As they proceed in this work, staff will be mindful of the holidays and also of any extreme weather. Accordingly, with snow expected over the next two weeks, there are no planned enforcements during this time period.
- Staff will re-evaluate the current approach as needed and work accordingly in the most humane manner as possible given the time of year.

Key Messages

We would appreciate you referring media inquiries to media@vancouver.ca. If you are approached for comment by media or community members, here are some proposed key messages should you wish to respond:

- We applaud the Provincial Government's continued response to the call for greater senior-level involvement in the crisis on the Downtown Eastside.
- Today's announcement from the Province makes meaningful progress toward achieving our shared goal of securing quality housing for our city's most vulnerable residents.
- Bridge-to-housing provides temporary accommodation to those experiencing homelessness in our shelter system as a transitional step while other permanent supportive housing projects are in development.
- Selection for the temporary bridge-to-housing buildings will be prioritized based on applicant's individual need and will be first offered to those currently living in the shelter system.
- Vancouver is facing a housing crisis and people experiencing homelessness continue to be the hardest hit. While the reasons individuals fall into homelessness can be complex, the pathway out of homelessness is straightforward □ people need access to income, housing, and supports.
- People experiencing or at risk of homelessness are not all the same □ they can be young people, seniors, people with disabilities, and anyone who has experienced trauma, poverty, or has struggled with the high cost of housing
- Since 2019, more than 550 social and supportive homes have opened in Vancouver. There are approximately 1,900 units currently under construction.
- In partnership with senior levels of government, we have opened 1,100 non-market housing units at shelter rates, secured funding for 1,100 modular homes, and brought over 700 private SRO units into public ownership.
- The City continues to approach our work in a manner that respects the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness, while remaining committed to maintaining the safety, cleanliness and accessibility of City streets in the Downtown Eastside (DTES).
- More information on the project including the tenant selection process can be found at: <http://letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-2132-ash-street> and <http://letstalkhousingbc.ca/vancouver-1500-main-street>

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Sandra Singh Sandra.Singh@Vancouver.ca.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwəxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.