



Housing

An affordable and varied housing stock is an important foundation for supporting a growing population and ensuring a diverse, vibrant city. In Vancouver, rising housing prices have far outpaced local incomes, creating a crisis situation across the spectrum of incomes and households.

Did You Know?

Vancouver has among the highest housing costs in North America

Vancouver is a growing and diverse city with significant housing challenges. Providing a range of housing options is critical to the social and economic health of the City

Since the late 1970s, real household incomes increased by 9% while house prices increased by 280% for an eastside condo

The City of Vancouver’s mission is to create a city of communities which cares about its people, its environment and the opportunities to live, work and prosper. Challenges with housing affordability and increasing homelessness pose significant barriers to achieving this mission.

Vancouver is not alone in this. Through dialogue with global housing leaders, we have learned that cities around the world are experiencing the same threats to diversity, equity, and vibrancy that are facing Vancouver’s communities because of housing affordability. Global cities are all looking for new approaches to restore balance to local housing markets, and for new resources and opportunities to invest in long-term affordable housing.



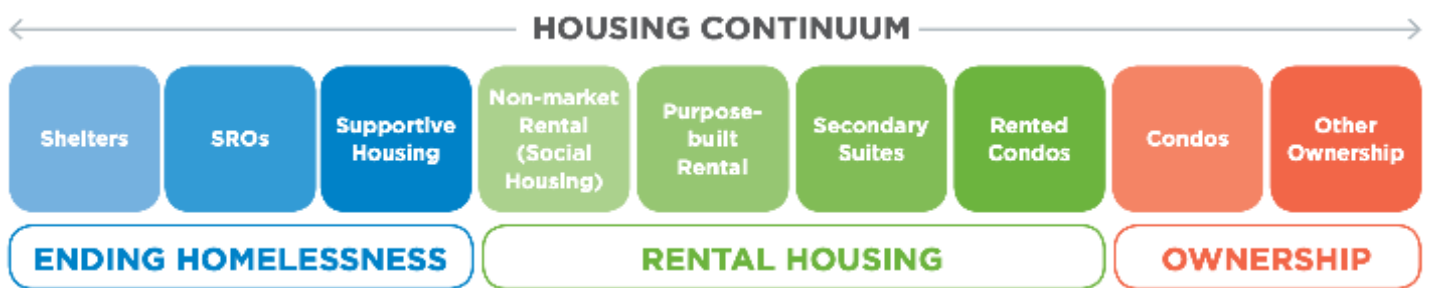
The Housing Continuum

To meet the needs of our growing population and ensure our city remains vibrant and diverse, it's important that we have an affordable and varied supply of housing.

The Housing Continuum consists of the range of housing options that should be available to households of all income levels, extending from emergency shelter and housing for the homeless through to

affordable rental housing and homeownership.

The City of Vancouver faces significant challenges at all points along the housing continuum. For example, within the Rental Housing segment of the housing continuum, there are very low vacancy rates in the market rental stock, with limited new supply in recent decades.



Housing Vancouver Strategy

Housing Vancouver is our 10-year housing strategy to reduce Vancouver's housing affordability gap and to provide a strong foundation for the future of Vancouver. It guides all policy decisions related to housing.

The strategy is founded on the following:

Create the 'Right Supply' of Housing

The City is driving a significant shift toward rental, social, and supportive housing. Housing and affordability must ultimately reflect the diversity of those most in need of this housing.

Protect and Retain Existing Rental Stock

The City must retain and preserve the affordability of the existing stock of rental and non-market housing, while also balancing the need to renew and expand these buildings.

Support Vulnerable Residents

For example, through increasing supports and protections for renters and people who are homeless. This includes strategies to address affordability, security of tenure, and the determinants of poverty and housing instability.



Heritage Action Plan

Heritage buildings are highly valued by Vancouver residents, and are an important component of neighbourhood character. The City recognizes the tremendous value in Vancouver's historically and culturally significant buildings, monuments, and other sites, and because of this, Vancouver's City Council oversees a comprehensive heritage management program to protect, restore, and rehabilitate as many sites as possible.

The City's heritage management program has three main components:

Heritage Management Plan

Under the Vancouver Charter, Vancouver's City Council has the power to protect our valuable heritage sites from demolition or

alterations. Importantly, they can also set up arrangements with property owners that encourage them to restore or rehabilitate their heritage properties.

Heritage Register

The Vancouver Heritage Register is the cornerstone of the City's heritage program. It provides a complete inventory of sites in Vancouver that have historical, cultural, aesthetic, scientific, or educational worth.

Public Education Efforts

Initiatives such as the heritage plaque program and heritage awards help increase the visibility of the city's significant historical sites, and increases public awareness of our built heritage and history.

Housing and Homelessness Strategy

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy describes the City's overall direction for housing, and identifies the different kinds of housing necessary to meet the needs of our citizens, as well as ways to improve and better preserve the housing we currently have.

The goals of the strategy are to end street homelessness and provide more affordable housing choices for all Vancouverites. This includes housing that is accessible, affordable and suitable for all income levels, seniors, families and residents challenged by disability.

While the City has taken steps toward addressing homelessness and housing costs, they remain looming challenges. Partnerships, as seen in the diagram below, are essential in meeting our goals to end homelessness and to increase housing options for all Vancouverites.

