



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Vancouver takes next step towards supportive housing transition on Granville Street

VANCOUVER – Today, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim released the following statement:

“Our office has provided a starting list of five city-owned sites to replace the existing three inadequate supportive housing facilities in the Granville Entertainment District, the St. Helen’s Hotel (1161 Granville), Luugat (1176 Granville), and Granville Villa (1025 Granville).

“The sites submitted to the Province by the City of Vancouver are for five smaller scale facilities, each with 55-65 units. This model is consistent with best practices, allowing for more focused care and better outcomes, in contrast with the warehousing approach that we have seen with the existing three sites.

“The current three facilities, despite having only 283 units between them, received 1,364 police calls for service in 2024 alone. This meant that those three buildings were responsible for 1 in every 125 police calls in the city, despite only housing 1 out of every 2500 residents of Vancouver.

“Additionally, between January 2020 and May 2025, the Luugat and St. Helen’s Hotel experienced 74 fires and were the subject of 2,203 calls to Vancouver Fire and Rescue – an astronomically high number when compared to other buildings of similar occupancy.

“Putting those with complex mental health challenges and substance use issues in an entertainment district was never a good idea.

“The City of Vancouver has consistently voiced concerns about the risks associated with the warehousing model and with their recently proposed changes to the Residential Tenancy Act, we are pleased to see the Province begin to recognize this.

“With this transition of units out of the GED and into more manageably sized facilities with integrated services and proper wraparound supports, we are confident that Vancouver will become a success story on how to approach supportive housing in a different, more effective way.

“The City of Vancouver has done its part to provide viable sites for future facilities and the responsibility to transition these units out of the GED now sits with the Province. We look forward to hearing from them on a plan for carrying this work out quickly.”

Media Contact:

Taylor Verrall

Press Secretary, Mayor's Office

taylor.verrall@vancouver.ca