



November 7, 2024

Neighbourhood Update

Temporary Winter Shelter | 441 Dawson Ave

Dear Neighbour,

We are writing to share details about the temporary winter shelter opening at 441 Dawson Avenue in the coming days. Winter weather can create a life-or-death situation for people experiencing homelessness. This is why it is vital to have sufficient shelter spaces for people to come inside, get warm and access basic services.

Homelessness is a complex and challenging social issue. Having emergency shelters is part of the continuum of supports necessary to address a lack of safe, affordable and appropriate housing. 100 More Homes is working with more than 40 community partners (including the City of Penticton, BC Housing, developers and non-profit organizations) to prevent and address homelessness.

What is a temporary winter shelter?

A temporary winter shelter is an immediate place to stay for anyone who is experiencing or at risk of homelessness. People staying in winter shelters can include seniors, people with disabilities, people who have experienced trauma or poverty, people with health concerns and anyone struggling with the high cost of housing. Guests would be adults (19+) of all genders.

Community safety

A Safety and Security Plan has been created to promote the well-being of all community members, including residents and nearby businesses as well as shelter guests and staff. This collaborative plan involves key organizations, including the RCMP, City Bylaw, Penticton Fire Department, 100 More Homes, Interior Health, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Penticton Industrial Development Association (PIDA), supplemented with private overnight security to provide 24/7 oversight.

Key elements of the Safety and Security Plan

- A dedicated staff member on-site, responsible for safety coordination with local law enforcement and overnight private security at the shelter.
- Daily patrols in the neighbourhood by the RCMP and Bylaw.
- Ongoing cleaning efforts by shelter staff and the City's Clean Team to maintain neighbourhood cleanliness in public places (streets, boulevards, sidewalks) around the shelter and the broader neighbourhood.
- Regular meetings with key partners to address emerging issues, with PIDA providing business liaison representation.
- Neighbourhood engagement sessions to provide an opportunity to hear directly from you and/or your organizations; dates will be shared once finalized.



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About the shelter

The temporary winter shelter will be open 24/7 in the coming days until March 31, 2025. This shelter will provide up to 40 people with a warm and safe place to stay during the coldest winter months.

Penticton+ Overdose Prevention Society (P+OPS) will operate the shelter and provide guests with a cot to sleep on, 3 meals per day, access to washroom and shower facilities, storage for personal belongings and connections to community services, health care and support groups.

P+OPS has been providing sheltering, outreach and support services to adults in the South Okanagan-Similkameen region since 2021. Learn more by visiting: pentictonoverdoseprevention.wordpress.com.

Safety assessments

We understand that a shelter in your neighbourhood may raise concerns about its impact on your business. To address this, we have worked in partnership with our Community Policing team to offer free **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments**. These assessments look at physical spaces and identify enhancements that can reduce opportunities for crime through improved visibility, lighting and security.

Additionally, the Community Policing Team is also offering de-escalation training, which may be helpful in managing difficult conversations safely and effectively. If you are interested in either of these services, please contact Joanne Ruppenthal at joanne.ruppenthal@rcmp-grc.gc.ca as soon as possible to support planning.

Business liaison

If you have any concerns or questions related to your business, please contact Frank Conci, President of the **Penticton Industrial Development Association (PIDA)**, at **250-486-5302** or email pidafc19@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood forums

100 More Homes and their partners are leading community connection forums to help understand how the operation of the winter shelter is going. This is an opportunity to be included in addressing this complex and difficult situation in the community of Penticton – and to engage directly with the operator, City staff, Interior Health and safety representatives.

The first public form will take place on November 28 from 4-6 p.m. at **South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society (SOSBIS)**, 996 Main St, Penticton, BC V2A 5E4. To sign up for information about upcoming events, fill out a form at <https://bit.ly/48DC0up>



Questions?

For additional contacts, please refer to the resource sheet enclosed to this letter.

Kind Regards,