

BC Housing report confirms significant gaps remain

(Penticton, BC – May 18, 2022) – A review of supportive housing projects by BC Housing confirms the need for improved treatment and recovery services in Penticton as significant gaps remain that see people falling through the cracks.

"We wanted this report to make sure the occupants were getting the services they deserve and that the community was promised," says Acting Mayor Judy Sentes. "This report shows us a path forward now, one that will require a true partnership with provincial authorities to deliver effective services. It's clear we need to do more but we need to do it in the correct way and that means proper support."

The report of three supportive housing facilities highlights the challenges faced by Penticton:

- The need for full 24/7 wraparound services at existing supportive housing facilities
- The need for more effective and accessible treatment and recovery options
- The need for an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team in Penticton

"Council is supportive of treatment and recovery options for those suffering from trauma, addiction and mental health issues which is why we are glad BC Housing changed its earlier proposal on Skaha Lake Road from supportive housing to providing recovery options," says Sentes. "We look forward to working with our provincial partners to improve the success rate of the current program."

"But we will continue to fight for Penticton's most vulnerable, for better mental health services, an ACT team and the introduction of a Car 40 program."

Council issued a Development Permit for the BC Housing's planned recovery facility at 3240 Skaha Lake Road in November 2021. BC Housing is still determining the construction schedule.

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