

Right place, right time, right now: Supportive Housing in Richmond!

Housing is a human right. Everyone deserves a home and help when needed.

Why we need to build supportive housing in Richmond:

<p>“We don’t need this type of housing in Richmond”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The following housing gaps and priority groups in need were identified by the City of Richmond’s Affordable Housing Strategy 2017 – 2027 (endorsed by Council on March 12, 2018): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vulnerable populations including households on fixed incomes, persons experiencing homelessness, women and children experiencing family violence, persons with mental health and addictions issues and Aboriginal populations; and ○ Non-market housing with supports.
<p>“Give the money to existing service providers, not to a new provider”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raincity has a long track-record of operating supportive housing buildings across Metro Vancouver and on the Sunshine Coast. ● Raincity is also currently supporting 15 homeless in Richmond through support services – but have a very hard time finding housing for them. This site will close some of the gap, while others have to find housing in the market.
<p>We have no homeless in Richmond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Richmond non-profit services and housing for individuals experiencing homelessness are over capacity. The Salvation Army emergency shelter (10 men-only beds) reports turning-away over 130 clients per month seeking shelter and Chimo Community Service’s Nova House (transitional house for women fleeing violence) reports turning-away 40-60 women monthly. ● Every community throughout Metro Vancouver has individuals experiencing homelessness. ● Most individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond have ties to the community, which is supported by the 2017 Metro Vancouver Homelessness Count, which shows that most people who are homeless have lived in Richmond for longer than one year.
<p>“People who are experiencing homelessness should just get jobs”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employment, housing, and in some cases, support services are the three pillars to get a homeless person off the streets permanently. However, employment alone does not necessarily remove individuals from homelessness. ● 22% of homeless across Metro Vancouver in 2017 had full or part-time jobs, but cannot find an appropriate and affordable place to live. ● Research shows that individuals experiencing homelessness want to work. People experiencing homelessness face challenges to employment and supportive housing like in Richmond can provide the stability to get people’s lives back on track.
<p>“Crime will increase around supportive housing sites”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The presence of housing support staff who report suspicious activity near the supportive housing sites and provide supervision to ensure tenant safety and discourage unwanted activity coming into the buildings. ● All stakeholders, the tenants and the operator have a strong interest to be good neighbours.
<p>“The tenants will have mental health and addiction issues and are dangerous”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental illness and addiction are some of many causes of homelessness. Arguably, the main cause of homelessness is poverty. ● People who are homeless and struggle with health issues are not automatically dangerous. Just like anyone else, homeless or not, they need help to find more stability in their lives. ● Supportive housing can help stabilize people with mental health and substance use challenges by providing support in accessing health care, counselling and treatment services, support for individuals taking medication for their mental illness, and links to social services. ● Providing housing first and linking them to supports is the first step to get people back into a normal life.