

# Frequently Asked Questions

November 2025

## Temporary Housing with Supports | 616 Okanagan Ave East, Penticton

---

### **Project overview**

On October 24, 2025, BC Housing, in partnership with the City of Penticton [announced](#) a proposal to build up to 50 temporary homes at 616 Okanagan Avenue East. This proposal is a part of a broader effort to address homelessness and the encampment in Penticton and provide safe, supported housing to people who need it most.

The Province would fund this project through the HEART and HEARTH program. Penticton is a priority community for this program.

Letters introducing this project were hand delivered on October 24, 2025, to neighbours within a 100-m radius from the temporary housing site. We also recognize that the wider community has interest in this project, which is why we published a project webpage at [letstalkhousingbc.ca/penticton-okanagan-ave-east](http://letstalkhousingbc.ca/penticton-okanagan-ave-east).

This project requires a Temporary Use Permit (TUP). City Council will consider a TUP for the site on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 1 p.m. in Council Chambers at Penticton City Hall, 171 Main St. The meeting will also be live streamed on the City of Penticton website. For more information, please visit [penticton.ca/homelessness](http://penticton.ca/homelessness).

If the TUP is approved, next steps would include:

- Additional public information sessions held with key partners to share updates and connect directly with site neighbours.
- BC Housing would select an experienced non-profit housing operator through a fair and open process. We would introduce the operator to the community once they are selected.
- Site preparations would start as soon as possible. We would share any updates on the Let's Talk Housing BC project webpage at [letstalkhousingbc.ca/penticton-okanagan-ave-east](http://letstalkhousingbc.ca/penticton-okanagan-ave-east).

If you would like to be notified by email about a future information session, please email BC Housing at [communityrelations@bchousing.org](mailto:communityrelations@bchousing.org). Please include the subject line "Penticton Temporary Housing."

---

### **About the project**

#### **Why is this temporary housing needed?**

- Temporary housing is an emergency form of housing that can be developed quickly while additional housing continues to be built in the community. This project is part of a broader effort to address the encampment and homelessness in Penticton.
- Temporary housing provides a step between a shelter and a permanent home. Staff offer supports and services that help residents work towards housing stability and individual wellness goals.

## Who would live here?

- Temporary housing is for people who are ready to move on from shelter or precarious living situations and find more permanent housing.
- Residents would be local adults (19+) who need support services to maintain stable housing. They can include seniors and people with disabilities.
- BC Housing uses a community-based assessment process to offer people temporary housing. This process considers people's individual needs and the supports available.
- All residents make a choice to live there. They pay rent and sign program agreements. All residents would take part in case planning and work towards long-term housing and health goals.

## Would this site be temporary?

- A Temporary Use Permit (TUP) is required for the temporary housing to operate at this site. A TUP is typically approved for 3 years. There is an opportunity for the TUP to be renewed after the initial permit. That would require another Council approval.
- The temporary housing would have up to 50 single-room units (tiny homes) for residents and the amenity building would use modular structures. These are not permanent buildings.

## Why was this site chosen?

- The Province's Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) funding is a partnership program that requires the local government to provide a viable location with municipal approvals in place.
- The City selected this location following a thorough review of available land in Penticton.
- The City of Penticton owns very few properties, and most are already designated for long-term housing projects or too small for this purpose. This site offered a unique opportunity to meet the urgent need to address homelessness quickly without impacting long-term housing plans.



## What would happen to the dog park?

- If the proposal moves forward, the existing dog park would close. The City of Penticton would explore options to support residents and their pets. Residents are encouraged to visit [penticton.ca/dogs](http://penticton.ca/dogs) to find alternate locations.
- For questions about the temporary housing site location, please email City of Penticton at [blake.laven@penticton.ca](mailto:blake.laven@penticton.ca).

## Where would the entrance to the housing site be?

- Access to the site would be from Dartmouth Drive. There would be a controlled access gate that is

monitored 24/7. There would be parking available onsite.

### **What types of supports would be provided for temporary housing residents?**

- BC Housing would select an experienced non-profit housing operator to manage the building. The operator would provide services including:
  - On-site 24/7 staff support
  - Daily meals
  - Health care referrals
  - Connection to health services (including addiction and mental health programs and overdose prevention services)
  - Outreach, life skills training, employment assistance
  - Connection and referral to community services and support groups

### **What is in a single-room unit (tiny home)?**

- A single-room unit would typically have:
  - A bed
  - Desk and chair
  - Mini fridge
  - Air conditioning and heat
  - Storage
- Residents would have access to shared washrooms.



Example of single-room unit interior. Subject to change.

### **Would there be common spaces for residents onsite?**

- The amenity building onsite would offer common dining, amenity and meeting spaces for residents. There would be laundry onsite. There would also be outdoor gathering spaces within the fully fenced site.
- There would be no drop-in services at this site.

### **Would residents be allowed to use substances onsite?**

- We would not deny this housing to people who may use substances. If a resident chooses to use substances onsite, the operator would engage residents with compassion and follow a harm-reduction approach.
- Housing is crucial in a person's health journey. After a person can access a warm bed, washrooms and meals, they are in a much better position to improve their well-being, including accessing health care related services.
- Staff are also trained to connect residents to mental health and addiction supports as appropriate based on a person's health and wellness goals.
- It is also important to note that not all residents use substances, and this would not be a recovery-based housing program.

### What if neighbours have questions or concerns once the housing opens?

- BC Housing and the operator (once selected) are committed to working with neighbours to ensure a smooth integration into the neighbourhood.
- We would share direct contact information for the housing with neighbours when it opens. Housing staff would be on site 24/7 to support residents and provide a point of contact for neighbours. Staff commit to working with residents and the surrounding community on an ongoing basis to address any safety concerns quickly and collaboratively.
- If approved, the site would have a Safety Plan developed in collaboration with RCMP, Penticton Fire Department, City Bylaw Services, 100 More Homes, and BC Housing.
- BC Housing and the operator would continue to work closely with partners who are best positioned to address safety issues beyond the housing site, including our Safety Plan partners.

### What about housing for other people in the community?

- BC Housing develops a range of projects across the Province along the housing continuum (see image below). More permanent housing is being developed in Penticton by BC Housing including:
  - Affordable homes like the 28-unit project at 603 Main Street in Penticton and the planned 620-unit redevelopment project at Skaha Lake Road and Green Avenue West
  - Affordable housing for women and children
- Affordable housing includes a range of housing options from subsidized housing for low-income individuals, families and seniors through to affordable, market, purpose built rental or affordable home ownership.

