

Community FAQ

Solace Shelter at 1055 Glenfair Drive, Kamloops

July 2025

Project Overview

In June 2024, the [Province announced](#) that a 40-bed, year-round shelter will be developed at 1055 Glenfair Drive in Kamloops. This is a partnership between BC Housing and the City of Kamloops. BC Housing selected The Mustard Seed to manage the site and provide supports and services to shelter guests. The Mustard Seed has named this the Solace Shelter.

This shelter will be open year-round, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The shelter will have 40 beds mainly for seniors and older adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The Mustard Seed will provide a safe, stable and supportive environment where seniors and older adults can access essential services, begin their journey to wellness, and connect with more permanent housing.

Construction is expected to start in late 2025 and we currently expect the shelter to open later in 2026. We will share an updated timeline when it's available.

Community Engagement

On June 24, 2024, the Province announced a 40-bed, year-round shelter at 1055 Glenfair Drive. That week, The Mustard Seed hand delivered letters to direct site neighbours. We recognize that the wider community has interest in this project, which is also why we published a project webpage: [Kamloops – 1055 Glenfair Drive | Let's Talk Housing BC](#). On this page, we will continue to share updates about the project and future opportunities for community engagement.

In early May 2025, BC Housing mailed an invitation to neighbours within a 200-metre radius to attend a community open house. Participants would be able to get the latest information about projects in the Columbia Precinct area, meet the project team, and ask questions. This invitation was also shared with Sagebrush Neighbourhood Association who shared it with their members.

On May 22, 2025 BC Housing and The Mustard Seed welcomed neighbours to an in-person open house to view the latest project information, meet project representatives, and ask questions one-on-one. We thank all participants for their time and thoughtful discussion.

On July 2, 2025, BC Housing and The Mustard Seed met with Sagebrush Neighbourhood Association President and Chair of Columbia Precinct Committee to answer questions and provide more information about shelter operations.

We commit to keeping lines of communication open and continue to welcome ideas on integrating the shelter better with the neighbourhood. We will continue to share project updates and opportunities for community engagement on our Let's Talk page: [Kamloops – 1055 Glenfair Drive | Let's Talk Housing BC](#)

For questions about shelter operations and programming, you can email The Mustard Seed at **infokamloops@theseed.ca**.

For general questions about the project and development, you can email BC Housing at **communityrelations@bchousing.org**.

About the Project

Why is this shelter needed?

Shelters are an important first step for people who are transitioning out of homelessness. People without access to basic shelter must focus solely on survival. After a person can access a warm bed, washrooms and meals, they are in a much better position to improve their housing situation and well-being.

The Solace Shelter is in response to the increase of seniors and older adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Kamloops.

According to the [2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Count](#) (over a 24-hour period), over 300 people were reported as experiencing homelessness in Kamloops. Of these:

- Nearly 50% are 45 years or older, with many who need age-appropriate supports
- 51% identified as having either an illness or medical condition
- 53% said they have a physical mobility challenge
- 39% identified as having challenges related to their senses, such as sight or hearing.
- 68% have always lived in Kamloops or lived here for 5 or more years

Since 2021, there has been a 26% increase in senior's experiencing homelessness in Kamloops.

What about the other shelter spaces in Kamloops? Why is there a need for more shelters?

BC Housing currently funds 250 shelter beds across the City. Of these, 170 beds are currently in shelters with leases that will expire in 2026 or 2027. This means that additional shelter spaces

will be needed over the next two years to replace some of the existing shelters and continue to support people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Development

Why was this site selected?

This site is on Provincially owned land and was available. It is the highest and best use for underutilized provincial land to meet local shelter needs. The site is close to healthcare, transit, and other services, which are important for seniors and older adults working towards stability.

What is the project timeline?

Construction is expected to start in late 2025 and we currently expect the shelter to open later in 2026. We will share an updated timeline when it's available.

Why will this project be completed faster than other housing projects in the area?

This shelter will use workforce modular trailers which allows for faster project timelines and more immediate support and stability for vulnerable seniors and older adults.

More permanent housing is being developed throughout Kamloops by BC Housing including:

- Affordable housing
- Non-market rental housing
- Women's transitional housing
- Senior's housing

Will there be common spaces for guests at the shelter?

Yes, there will be indoor and outdoor spaces for shelter guests within the shelter site. These include a living and dining area as well as outdoor space for guests to enjoy.

Will the shelter be fully fenced?

Yes, the shelter will be fully fenced including the outdoor space for guests.

There will be safety and security features for the benefit of shelter guests, staff, as well as the surrounding community. These include controlled entry into the shelter, security cameras and lighting.

How will this impact nature and the access to Petersen Creek?

The shelter will not affect access to the creek or the park.

BC Housing has completed the Provincial and municipal environmental and archaeological assessments and approvals as would be required by any developer.

Operations

Who will manage this shelter and what training do operators have?

The Mustard Seed will operate the shelter, maintain the property and provide services to guests. The Mustard Seed is a Christian non-profit organization that has been caring for people experiencing homelessness and poverty since 1984. The Mustard Seed is a supportive haven where people can have their physical, mental, and spiritual needs met and grow toward greater health and independence. Learn more about The Mustard Seed at **TheSeed.ca**.

The Mustard Seed staff will be on-site 24/7 to manage the shelter and support guests.

BC Housing-required training for all shelter operators includes:

- Crisis prevention
- First Aid/CPR
- Mental health first aid
- Domestic violence and safety planning
- Substance use awareness and safety
- Trauma-informed practice

How do guests access a bed at Solace Shelter?

Solace Shelter will operate as an emergency shelter mainly for seniors and older adults. Like other Mustard Seed shelters, the model will allow guests to register for available beds and include a limited reservation system for returning guests. While specific details are still being finalized, guests will need to meet shelter expectations and criteria to stay.

The Mustard Seed will also work collaboratively with other service providers in Kamloops to ensure older adults who may benefit from a more age-focused environment are aware of this shelter option. If a person is not a good fit for the senior-focused shelter, The Mustard Seed will work with other providers and guide guests to beds that are available elsewhere.

Who will stay at this shelter?

This shelter will be older adults and seniors focused. The Mustard Seed will work with other non-profit operators to select clients from shelters in Kamloops who would succeed in a seniors focused environment. The supports and services at the shelter will only be for registered shelter guests. There will not be drop-in services for other members of the community at this site.

Almost half of the people experiencing homelessness in Kamloops' are 45 years and older. Homelessness can advance aging due to trauma; many people in their 40s and 50s face health and mobility challenges normally seen in older seniors.

Health challenges related to ageing can include:

- Illness or medical condition
- Physical mobility challenges
- Mental health
- Senses, such as seeing or hearing

The Solace Shelter will support adults experiencing ageing-related health challenges and connect them to the appropriate supports they need. The shelter is near the hospital and health services which will help support this.

Will people be able to drop in and use shelter services?

No. Shelter supports and services are for registered shelter guests only.

What supports and services are available for shelter guests?

The supports and services that will be available for registered shelter guests will include:

- 24/7 staff onsite
- Safe and secure sleeping spaces
- Daily meals
- Washroom and shower facilities
- Laundry
- Personalized case planning
- Referrals to health care, housing programs and community supports
- Compassionate, trauma-informed environment

The Mustard Seed staff will share harm reduction strategies and education to shelter guests. Harm reduction is an important and life-saving health care practice. It aims to educate people about how to keep themselves safe and minimize death, disease and injury from any activity or behavior that involves risk.

This shelter will also provide supports geared to assist seniors and vulnerable older adults.

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.

Will guests be allowed to use substances at the shelter?

Substance use is not permitted on shelter property. However, The Mustard Seed does not turn guests away solely for being under the influence. If a guest arrives intoxicated but they can understand and agree to the shelter's expectations, they will be welcomed.

Although this is not a substance-use recovery facility, staff are trained to engage guests with compassion and connect them to mental health and addiction supports if needed. The Mustard Seed also works in collaboration with other service providers to ensure people have

access to the right supports at the right time including harm-reduction and treatment services.

It is important to note that not all shelter guests use substances. The shelter will offer spaces for those who do not use substances to foster community with support.

The Mustard Seed will manage and operate the shelter site. For any concerns outside of shelter property, The Mustard Seed actively builds strong relationships with local law enforcement, the City's Community Services division and community partners to help mitigate any concerns as they would in any neighbourhood. The goal is to provide a stable, supportive alternative to street-based survival, benefiting both shelter guests and the wider community.

Safety and Security

How will the area around the shelter be kept safe for everyone?

The safety of the shelter guests, staff, and surrounding community is always our top priority. BC Housing and The Mustard Seed are committed to working with neighbours to ensure a smooth integration into the neighbourhood.

The Mustard Seed will work to keep the property tidy and well maintained. The Mustard Seed will encourage guests to treat the property and the surrounding neighbourhood with respect. They will also work to build good relationships with the community and address any challenges that may arise on the shelter property.

RCMP and the City's Community Services division would address any issues that occur as in any neighbourhood. This includes any issues within Peterson Creek Park. Concerns outside of the shelter property around homelessness, substance use, and public safety involve many factors and require a coordinated response from multiple partners, including community partners, Community Services, and the RCMP.

Who can neighbours contact with questions or concerns?

Neighbours will be provided with a Who to Call, When to Call contact sheet when the shelter opens. This will include contact information for BC Housing and The Mustard Seed as well as the City's Community Services division and emergency information. This will also be posted on the project website for community members who visit the area. BC Housing and The Mustard Seed commit to addressing any issues quickly and collaboratively.

For questions about shelter operations and programming, you can email The Mustard Seed at **infokamloops@theseed.ca**.

For general questions about the project and development, you can email BC Housing at **communityrelations@bchousing.org**.