

# BC Housing: Provincial Homelessness Initiative

## Phoenix Centre, Surrey



The Phoenix Centre is the first development announced by the Premier's Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions to break ground. It is also the first development of its kind to combine clinical addiction services with transitional housing, employment and education services.

Once completed in April 2006, the centre will have 28 addiction recovery beds, 36 transitional housing units, and an education and training centre. As well, it will provide health and mental health services to help those with substance misuse problems to build the skills, resiliency, and self-sufficiency necessary for successful reintegration into the community.

BC Housing is the provincial crown agency that develops, manages and administers a wide range of subsidized housing options for those most in need. The Province of British Columbia has increased funding for housing programs to nearly \$172 million for the 2005/2006 fiscal year, the largest annual level ever in BC.

The Provincial Homelessness Initiative has emerged from the work of the Premier's Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions. The initiative receives funding from the second phase of the Canada – British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement. This agreement, which was signed in 2004, will see both levels of government contribute about \$42 million for developments that will provide a continuum of affordable housing with support services to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As with the first phase of the agreement, BC Housing will administer the funding on behalf of both levels of government.

The Provincial Homelessness Initiative aims to break the cycle of homelessness by integrating support services with housing. The objective is to assist people to move beyond temporary shelter to more secure housing, to gain greater self-reliance, and to achieve appropriate employment.

Twelve developments have been announced in nine communities: Vancouver, Victoria, Surrey, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Kelowna, Prince George, Terrace, and Fort St. John. The total number of new units and shelter beds is 533. Each development represents unique partnerships connecting government with different sectors to improve the outcomes of housing investment.

[www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)



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