



**Independent
Living BC**

Information for Housing Providers

There are currently over 550,000 seniors over the age of 65 living in B.C.; by the year 2031 that number will increase to 1.4 million.

Independent Living BC (ILBC) is an innovative housing-for-health program designed for seniors and people with disabilities who require some assistance to remain independent but don't want or need 24-hour care.

Assisted living homes are self-contained, wheelchair accessible apartments where residents receive hospitality and personal care services such as meals, housekeeping, laundry, recreational opportunities, assistance with medications, and a 24-hour response system. ILBC residents pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for rent and services.

Assisted living developments are sometimes built as part of a "campus of care", which allows seniors to age in place. Within the same site, a housing provider offers independent seniors' housing, assisted living, and residential care. As residents age and their care levels change, they can move from one development to another. This allows couples and friends whose care levels are different to stay in the same community and visit each other regularly.

ILBC is facilitated by the Province, through BC Housing, in partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, regional health authorities, municipalities and the private and non-profit housing sectors. The program will create 3,500 homes with support services across the province.

Partnerships are a key component to ILBC developments. Housing providers may receive funding and support from all levels of government.

- For non-profit developments, the federal government provides capital grants and the provincial government provides operating subsidies, with municipal governments waiving or reducing development cost charges.
- Tenants in private assisted living homes may be eligible for provincial rent supplements and developers can use these to leverage more units.
- Health authorities provide funding for the support services offered at all ILBC units.

For more information on how you can work with BC Housing to create assisted living units for British Columbians, visit our website at www.bchousing.org.

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 B.C.

KIWANIS GARDEN MANOR, POWELL RIVER

When it opens in summer 2006, Kiwanis Garden Manor will provide 40 one-bedroom homes to residents of Powell River who require some support to live independently but who do not want to leave their community. This three-storey development will be connected via an elevated covered walkway to the neighbouring subsidized seniors' building, which is also operated by the Powell River Kiwanis Housing Society. The walkway will provide a direct link to the new dining pavilion, thus allowing seniors from the existing building the opportunity to take some meals with their new neighbours.

All levels of government are partners with the non-profit housing society in Kiwanis Garden Manor. The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is providing a capital grant; the provincial government, through BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health, is providing housing subsidies over 35 years along with funding for hospitality and personal care services; the District of Powell River has offered reductions on development costs. The housing provider has made significant financial contributions as have other partners.

KIWANIS GARDEN MANOR FUNDING PARTNERS

