
NEWS RELEASE

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Minister Responsible for Housing
Vancouver Coastal Health

ADDICTION RECOVERY PROGRAM EXPANDS IN VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER – The Province, through BC Housing, has expanded the number of alcohol and drug-free housing units available throughout Vancouver to 93, of which 78 are part of Vancouver Coastal Health’s (VCH) Addiction Recovery Program for individuals recovering from addictions.

“With increased capacity available for the Addiction Recovery Program in Vancouver, more housing will be available to individuals in the early stages of recovery, when they most need stability and shelter in their lives,” said Minister Responsible for Housing Rich Coleman.

The Addiction Recovery Program, a unique health and housing partnership between BC Housing and VCH, helps people break the cycle of substance abuse by providing transitional supported housing. VCH funds Program Co-ordinators, who are responsible for the clinical assessment and placement of clients into BC Housing subsidized apartments.

Before the expansion, BC Housing provided 67 units of alcohol and drug-free housing scattered throughout Vancouver. BC Housing will now dedicate an additional 26 units of public housing within the city for the Addiction Recovery Program.

“Addiction is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive range of services for treatment to be effective and lasting,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “B.C. has taken a number of steps to build a system of effective mental health and addictions services in our Province, increasing program funding by 19.8 per cent since 2000/01 to more than \$1 billion in 2006/07. Programs like this that bring together needed supports give participants a better chance to break the cycle of substance misuse and focus on their recovery.”

“VCH is delighted to be a partner with BC Housing in bringing together affordable housing and support services that make it possible for people to focus their energy on recovering from addictions,” said Ida Goodreau, president and CEO of Vancouver Coastal Health. “The Addictions Recovery Program gives us the opportunity to provide clients with a continuum of housing options that bridge their needs from the early stages of recovery.”

Clients are referred to the program by a VCH recovery facility. They must have demonstrated a commitment to their recovery for at least three months and be committed to achieving an alcohol- and drug-free life.

The 18-month program also provides an individual recovery plan, which includes social reintegration, job skills development, education or training, and employment counselling. Graduates of the program move on to permanent supported housing, or private market housing, while they continue to receive counselling and support.

The expanded program begins this month, with VCH funding a new program co-ordinator to facilitate placements into the added units.

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