



## From Crisis to Stability: Investing in Complex Care Housing in Burnaby

### Background

Both **Burnaby's Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Residents** and the **City's Housing Strategy Committee** have consistently identified **complex care and supportive housing** as top priorities.

These housing models provide:

- **Stable, long-term housing**
- **24/7 onsite supports**
- Integrated access to **health care, mental-health services, and social supports**

Evidence shows that complex care housing improves health outcomes, enhances community safety, and reduces reliance on emergency and crisis services.

### Proposed Project

**BC Housing** has proposed a new complex care and supportive housing development on **City-owned land at Imperial Street, Kingsway, and Royal Oak**.

### Why This Location Works

- The area contains **no residential homes**, consisting primarily of auto-body shops and small businesses
- The site supports **purpose-built, integrated services** without displacing existing residents
- The project aligns with **Burnaby's long-term housing strategy** and provincial housing goals

### Project Components

- **40 studio apartments**
- **10 complex care units with 24/7 onsite support**
- **Additional supportive housing units**
- **Target completion: Late 2028**, pending approvals

*Even with this development, Burnaby would still remain **444 units short** of its affordable housing target—highlighting the need to move forward without delay.*

## Current Challenges

While there is community interest in the project, challenges include:

- **Vocal opposition**, much of which comes from individuals **outside Burnaby**
- **Limited public understanding** of complex care and supportive housing
- The project remains in **early planning stages** and requires sustained community and political support

## Opportunities

Advancing this project would:

- Provide **life-saving housing and wrap-around supports** for vulnerable residents
- **Reduce pressure** on emergency services, hospitals, and public spaces
- Demonstrate Burnaby's leadership in **evidence-based, compassionate housing solutions**
- Build momentum for **future affordable housing developments**

## Next Steps

Ongoing efforts include:

- Participation in **District Safety meetings, BCAT discussions**, and inter-agency coordination
- **Task force letter-writing campaigns** to strengthen community and stakeholder support
- Continued engagement with the **City of Burnaby** and **BC Housing** during negotiations

## Recommendation

The **City of Burnaby** should **approve and advance the BC Housing proposal** as a critical step toward addressing the city's affordable housing deficit and meeting the needs of residents requiring complex care and supportive services.

**Community leaders, partners, and residents are encouraged to voice their support** to ensure this project moves forward and is completed by **2028**.