



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**.