

Integrated Housing & Health Proposal

BC Housing, Northern Health and the City of Prince
George

Community Information Session

September 11, 2019



Partners

BC Housing would lead the design and construction of the supportive and affordable homes and oversee operation of the housing units once construction is complete.

Northern Health would oversee the delivery of primary and community-care health services, as well as mental health and harm reduction services, within the health service spaces constructed by BC Housing. Some of these services may be delivered by Northern Health directly, or by other organizations.

The City would provide land for the development and lead the rezoning process.

Framework

BC Housing, Northern Health and the City of Prince George are committed to providing affordable housing integrated with healthcare services to serve the community's most vulnerable populations and improve downtown Prince George. We have signed a Framework Agreement to:

- Share commitment to a 'Housing First' approach that recognizes people are better able to benefit from support and maintain stability in their lives if they are housed.

- Recognize that housing is a social determinant of health and that access to safe and affordable housing is a contributing factor to One's health and well-being.

- Work together to provide people with the support and services they need to recover and stay healthy.

Why are People Experiencing Homelessness?





PROPOSED INTEGRATED HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT

In a first of its kind for the region, BC Housing, Northern Health and the City of Prince George are partnering on a proposal to integrate affordable housing with healthcare services to serve the community's most vulnerable populations and improve downtown Prince George.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

- ▶ Phase 1 would include approximately 50 supportive homes for people experiencing homelessness and Phase 2 would include 50 affordable rental homes targeted for low to moderate-income individuals and families. Proposed concept includes ground-floor healthcare space in each building accessible to both residents and the public.

PROPOSED LOCATION: 855 1st Avenue

- ▶ Operated by: If approved, experienced non-profit housing providers would be selected to oversee the day-to-day management of housing in both buildings. Northern Health, in partnership with other health service agencies, would be responsible for overseeing these spaces and providing primary care, harm reduction, and specialized mental health and substance-use services.

WHO IS IT FOR? THE HOUSING CONTINUUM



What is supportive housing?

A studio home with supports provided on site.

This would not be a shelter.



Shelter	Supportive Housing
 First come first served	 Assessment process for applicants
Access to a bed temporarily (1 night at a time) 	A self-contained studio home 
 Some meals may be provided	1 hot meal provided, plus private kitchenette 
Shared sleeping space 	Private unit 
 No payment	 Pay rent for unit
Outreach worker available to connect to support services offsite 	24/7 access to staff and support services onsite 

Supportive housing is a studio home....



With on-site supports....

- Daily meal services
- Individual case planning
- Individual & group services
(life skills, community kitchen)
- Connection to community supports
(education & employment opportunities, health & wellness services)





Who lives in supportive housing?

People who apply must be:

- A local resident over the age of 19
- Experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- In need additional support to maintain housing

Resident Selection Process

- The operator works with BC Housing and local service providers to match needs of resident to support services provided;
- People are to be assessed using a thorough process to determine services need and create healthy resident mix;
- All residents pay rent and sign a program agreement around expectations and behaviours.



Downtown Prince George Health Services Review

- Ensure the population is obtaining the best outcomes given the resources allocate
- Assess whether services are organized in a model that reflects best practices
- Explore & recommend a service model that improves access to services, reduces duplications, and has potential co-location opportunities



Downtown Prince George Health Services

KEY FINDINGS

▶ Silos exist across contracted service providers and NH & within NH. Need more formal links between services to support people navigating the system.

▶ Waitlists for various services. Other access issues include limited after hour services and existence of criteria/requirements to receive services.

▶ Similar services provided by multiple providers with many groups capturing same information from same people.

▶ No primary or immediate care available for unattached patients. No sobering centre and shortage of social/rehabilitative spaces and housing options.

▶ Primary Care Homes (PCHs) is following best practice. In downtown Prince George, two PCHs primarily serve the homeless/vulnerable population. Each PCH has own model with own unique strengths.

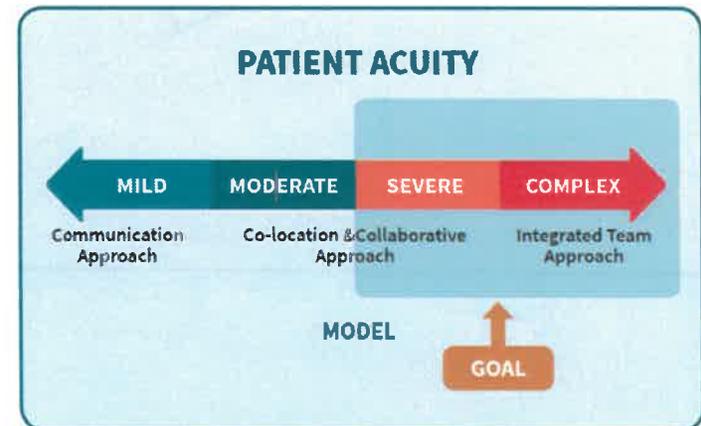
▶ Most interviewed have strong preference to relocate the HIV/AIDS Prevention Program, should be co-located with existing primary care home.

Downtown Prince George Health Services Review

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Fifteen recommendations were developed after considering the results from the consultation process, best practice research, and experience and expertise. The first recommendation is the overarching recommendation.

1. Implement an Accessible, Integrated Service Model (the “what”) by establishing a fully integrated, wraparound, inter-professional team that provides primary and community care and specialized Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) services to the Downtown Prince George (DTPG) site.





Next Steps



How can I learn more and provide input?



Fill out a comment form tonight



Keep updated on public consultations + information sessions:
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Submit questions + feedback:
communityrelations@bchousing.org

