

FIRST FOCUS

VANCOUVER AGREEMENT

BACKGROUND

Housing options to meet community needs

Meeting the goals of the First Focus of the Vancouver Agreement sometimes means providing services outside the boundaries of the Downtown Eastside. The three housing initiatives announced today provide options for people who require affordable housing.

Katherine Sanford Housing Society

The Katherine Sanford Housing Society is developing approximately 40 supported seniors housing units in Vancouver to address the housing needs of DTES seniors, who live in single-room occupancy hotels and have mental health issues. For many residents the only alternative to living in this new development would be placement in long term or acute care facilities.

- Capital cost of this development will be approximately \$3.5 million. Capital financing for this development's construction will be provided through the province.
- The province will also provide an annual operating subsidy to the society to ensure tenants pay no more than 30 per cent of their income on rent.
- The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board will provide staffing and program resources for the supportive component of the development.
- Residents can receive daily meal, laundry and support workers services and access broader community programs.

St. James Community Service Society

St. James Community Service Society currently operates Powell Place, serving women from DTES and across the province. The society will construct a new development which is being planned for women and children in crisis who are not from the DTES, and are at risk of becoming homeless.

- The new facility will contain 32 emergency shelter beds.
- 10 second-stage housing units of one, two and three bedrooms.
- Separate office and amenity spaces for the shelter and second stage housing.
- The total capital cost is \$4 million.

Previously Announced Projects:

Mole Hill Community Housing Society

As part of the 1999-2000 HOMES BC program, the City of Vancouver and BC Housing partnered on a Memorandum of Understanding to direct the immediate and long-term development of social housing in the city. Mole Hill is being developed in two phases. The second phase is part of the Vancouver Agreement and was formally announced September 5. This development will house low-income singles, seniors and families in need of affordable housing.

- Phase 2 is expected to include the renovation of 16 houses, which will contain 107 units. Construction is expected to begin May 2001.
- The City of Vancouver will lease the property (valued at \$8.2 million) for Phase 2 on a 60 year lease at no cost to the Mole Hill Community Housing Society upon completion of renovations.
- Capital cost for the renovations is \$13.6 million.
- This project has been previously announced and is not included in the new dollars listed for housing in today's announcement.

Metropole Hotel Project

In the spirit of the Vancouver Agreement, the federal government recently opened this 60 unit housing project in the Downtown Eastside.

- The federal government contributed \$1.08 million in RRAP funding and mortgage loan insurance of \$2 million.
- This project has been previously announced and is not included in the new dollars listed for housing in today's announcement.