**WHAT IS PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING?**

In British Columbia, **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** offers affordable, long-term rental accommodation with on-site support service for individuals who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. These supports aim to help residents achieve greater independence and maintain stability. On-site supports MAY include: life skills training, connections to external services, 24/7 staff, meal programs, social activities and access to basic services. Self-contained units are for residents to have their own private units with kitchens and bathrooms.

Low barrier access is designed to be accessible to a wide range of individuals, regardless of their circumstances.

The GOAL is to help residents develop the skills and resource they need to live independently.

BC HOUSING provides funding for supportive housing projects across the province

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING is distinctive from:

*Transitional Housing* which provides TEMPORARY housing and supports with the goal of helping residents move to permanent housing.

*Assisted Living* which offers more extensive personal care and services for individuals who require higher levels of support.

**What is Housing First?**

**HOUSING FIRST** is a model that prioritises immediate access to stable, permanent housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, rather than focussing on readiness or treatment *before* housing. It is based on the principle that stable housing is a fundamental need and a prerequisite for recovery and overall well-being. Supports and services are then provided to individuals in their own homes, based on their needs and preferences.

Key Principles of Housing First, include *Individualised, client-driven, and recovery-oriented supports.* Theservices are tailored to an individual’s needs and goals and focus on recovery and self-sufficiency. *Harm reduction* focusses on minimising risks and promoting safety, while respecting individual choices and autonomy;

**Conclusion**

**Housing First** is a proven and effective model for ending homelessness, particularly for individuals with complex needs. By prioritising housing as a fundamental human right and offering flexible, individualised supports, Housing First empowers individuals to live more stable and fulfilling lives.

To Join the Advocacy Group for providing Permanent Supportive Housing on the Semiahmoo Peninsula, please email:

Bonnie Gillis, Cheryl Lightowlers, Kathy Booth at:

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**INTERESTED IN HELPING TO END HOMELESSNESS ON**

**THE PENINSULA?**

**The number of people experiencing homelessness is increasing on the Peninsula.**

* Since **2008** there has been an overnight Shelter from November to March during **Extreme Weather** for unhoused people locally.

**- 2008 – an average 4 or 5 guests** came to the Shelter

- **2025 - an average of 25 guests a night** sought refuge.

O**ver 50 guests needed Shelter** several nights.

The number of seniors seeking Shelter is increasing

* Some seniors arrive with **walkers, wheelchairs and canes**.

We know that many more people are unhoused on the Peninsula who do not come to the Shelter. They are couch surfing, live in their vehicles or would rather stay with their belongings outside.

**From April 15th to November every year there is NO Shelter for unhoused people locally.**

**In 2013 the City of Surrey promised to have Permanent Supportive Housing in all areas of Surrey. South Surrey, including the Peninsula is the only area of Surrey that has none. This housing provides stability, safety, resources, reduces health risks and an opportunity for residents to work to meet personal goals.**

**EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO HAVE A HOME**

**JOIN US TO ADVOCATE FOR HOUSING FOR THOSE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY**