

## Media Event Plan

**Event Title:** *PROVINCE PURCHASES TWO DTES PROPERTIES AND RELOCATES TENANTS OF REGENT HOTEL*

<b>Date:</b> June 25/26 (TBC) <b>Time:</b> TBC (Flexible)	<b>Media Market:</b> Lower Mainland
<b>Location:</b> 233/235 or 237/239 Main Street (Jubilee Rooms) TBC	<b>English Media Spokesperson:</b> Selina Robinson, Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing
	<b>Multicultural Media Spokesperson:</b> Selina Robinson, Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing
<b>Author:</b> BC Housing / MAH GCPE	<b>Communications Director Signoff:</b> Lisa Leslie
<b>Version #:</b> 2	<b>Date:</b> June 7, 2018

## THE EVENT'

### PROACTIVE EVENT

BC Government announces the purchase of two DTES properties, 233/235 and 237/239 Main Street (Jubilee Rooms) to operate as SROs for tenants decanted from Regent Hotel.

The Province is aware of the deteriorating and unsafe conditions of the Regent Hotel. BC Housing is working with the City of Vancouver, Atira, RainCity Housing, and other housing providers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the residents at Regent Hotel.

The buildings are anticipated to be ready for occupancy by summer 2018. Tenants of the Regent Hotel will be relocated to the Jubilee rooms on June 18, 2018 (TBC)

RainCity Housing has been identified as the preferred operator for the building due to their experience and capacity to operate this project as soon as possible.

Timing is dependent on City of Vancouver order for tenants to evacuate the Regent Hotel.

### EVENT

Province purchases two DTES properties and relocates tenants of Regent Hotel.

### WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- BC Housing, Samantha Cacnio, Senior Communications Specialist
- MAH GCPE, Scott McKenzie, Senior Public Affairs Officer

### BACKGROUND NOTES

#### Regent Hotel

- The Regent Hotel at 160 E Hastings in Vancouver is an SRO owned by the Sahota family who have signed a six-month property lease, starting February 2018, with the Atira Development Society to manage the SRO.
- The building is in very poor condition with reports of significant presence of mould, water damage and pest infestation in addition to numerous building maintenance needs. There is also alleged on-going criminal activity in the building including prostitution and drug dealing.
- There are approximately 138 tenants living in the building.
- On April 6, 2018, local media published a story about the 845 calls to police made to the SRO over 14 months. Atira's CEO was quoted in the story regarding the "abysmal" conditions of the building, as well as the presence of youth who are either living or visiting the SRO. The story also reports that Atira is working with BC Housing, Vancouver Coastal Health, the VPD and government ministries such as the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to confirm who resides in the building.
- On April 20, 2018, the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services issued an order requiring the immediate closure of the Regent bar based on numerous fire bylaw violations identified during an inspection. The closure does not apply to the housing units.
- Violations include: numerous penetrations of the ceiling/firestop, rags stuffed behind fire alarm system bells rendering them inaudible, emergency exits obstructed, excessive combustibles stored in the bar area, and fire department connections clogged with debris.

### **BC Housing Role**

- BC Housing is assisting Atira and the City of Vancouver as they address the building condition and its impact on the tenants.
- BC Housing will provide funding to Atira for any related vacancy loss and will also provide staffing at no cost to perform immediate safety and security upgrades to the building, including repair and replacement of suite entry doors, door lock replacement, pest control and improvements to security at the front entrance.
- BC Housing is working with other housing providers in the area to identify and hold vacant units for tenants that wish to relocate from the Regent Hotel. Vacant units are being held in directly managed buildings and SROs in the Downtown Eastside (DTES). Additional units may also be made available at the women-only modular project at Powell which opens in May 2018.

### **City of Vancouver Role**

- The owners of the Regent Hotel have been cited for over 500 violations by the City based on minimum requirements for standards and maintenance of the property. There are currently 426 outstanding changes filed against the owners of the building.
- There is an on-going police investigation into the alleged criminal activity in the building.
- The City of Vancouver is working on next steps.

### **Purchase of 233/235 and 237/239 Main Street**

- BC Housing has purchased two properties (approximately 80 units) in the DTES to operate as SROs for tenants decanted from the Regent Hotel.
- BC Housing has placed the buildings under contract for \$12.49M. A recent market appraisal has been commissioned which has valued the property in excess of \$13M.
- The buildings are anticipated to be ready for occupancy by summer 2018. Tenants of the Regent Hotel will be relocated to the Jubilee rooms on June 18, 2018 (TBC).
- RainCity Housing has been identified as the preferred operator for the building due to their experience and capacity to operate this project as soon as possible.

### **Funding (BCH to confirm numbers)**

- Total capital budget for the project is approximately \$14.8 million.
- The Province will grant Atira an operating subsidy of \$534,000, a one-time funding of up to \$100,000 for maintenance at the Regent Hotel, and a one-time funding of \$150,000 for moving expenses to transfer tenants at the Regent Hotel to other housing.

### **VENUE DESCRIPTION**

233/235 or 237/239 Main Street (Jubilee Rooms)  
More info to come from Society

### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Vancouver.

### **EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS)**

- s.13
- Selina Robinson, Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver, TBC
- s.13
- RainCity Housing representative, TBC

### **KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS**

- Provincial government
- City of Vancouver
- Atira Women's Resource Society
- RainCity Housing

**Draft Agenda**

9:45 a.m.	15 min	Pre-brief with all speakers
10:00 a.m.	2 min	Event begins s. 13 welcomes guests; s. 13
10:02 a.m.	2 min	- s. 13
10:04 a.m.	5 min	- Minister Selina Robinson provides remarks
10:09 a.m.	5 min	- Minister Shane Simpson provides remarks
10:14 a.m.	5 min	- Mayor Gregor Robertson provides remarks
10:19 a.m.	5 min	- s. 13
10:24 a.m.	5 min	- RainCity Housing representative provides remarks, TBC
10:29 a.m.	15 min	- Media QA - Photo opportunity with speakers Catering
10:44 a.m.		- Event ends

**VISUAL MESSAGE(S)  
DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)**

- Selina Robinson, Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing, joining other speakers in a group photo.
- Selina Robinson, Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing, talking to guests.

**Digital and Media opportunities**

- Twitter posts after event
- Post NR to B.C. gov. and BC Housing website
- Post photos to B.C. gov. flickr site

**WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)**

**DRAFT Key Messages**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- s. 13
- 
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.

## Media Event Plan

### Event Title: *Better Homes for Regent Hotel Tenants*

<b>Date:</b> June 20, 2018 <b>Time:</b> 12:30 p.m.	<b>Media Market:</b> Vancouver
<b>Location:</b> Jubilee Rooms 237 Main Street, Vancouver	<b>English Media Spokesperson:</b> Minister Selina Robinson
	<b>Multicultural Media Spokesperson:</b> N/A
<b>Author:</b> Scott McKenzie	<b>Communications Director Signoff:</b> Lisa Leslie
<b>Version #:</b> 2	<b>Date:</b> June 13, 2018

## THE EVENT

### PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

Proactive event to announce the City of Vancouver's closure of the Regent Hotel, and the Province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms to house people who were living at the Regent.

### EVENT

City, Province work together to provide better homes for Regent Hotel tenants

### WHO'S ORGANIZING?

City of Vancouver – Lauren Stasila  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Scott McKenzie  
BC Housing – Samantha Cacnio and Andrea Coutts

### BACKGROUND NOTES

The City of Vancouver will close the Regent Hotel SRO and plans to post the order for its tenants to leave the building on June 20, 2018. Atira Women's Resource Society has been operating the Regent for the past six months and has been working to move Regent tenants into more suitable housing.

The Province has purchased two buildings (the Jubilee Rooms) with 78 units of supportive housing for \$12.5 million on June 1, 2018 for the purpose of housing vulnerable tenants from the Regent. The buildings will be operated by RainCity Housing. BC Housing and RainCity have been working to have the Jubilee Rooms ready for occupancy by June 18, 2018. The funding for the purchase comes from the Province's Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund.

Currently, there are about 138 people living in the Regent. As of June 6, 45 people have been assisted by Atira in a move to permanent housing. There will be sufficient housing to relocate all the Regent tenants into permanent housing, where support services will be provided to them.

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s.13 and subsequently hold a joint media event to announce that tenants of the Regent will now have a better place to live, either at the Jubilee Rooms or in other permanent supportive housing.

### Regent Hotel

- The Regent Hotel at 160 E Hastings in Vancouver is an SRO owned by the Sahota family who have signed a six-month property lease, starting February 2018, with the Atira Development Society to manage the SRO.
- The building is in very poor condition with reports of significant presence of mould, water damage and pest infestation in addition to numerous building maintenance needs. There is also alleged on-going criminal activity in the building including prostitution and drug dealing.
- There are approximately 138 tenants living in the building.
- On April 6, 2018, local media published a story about the 845 calls to police made to the SRO over 14 months. Atira's CEO was quoted in the story regarding the "abysmal" conditions of the building, as well as the presence of youth who are either living or visiting the SRO. The story also reports that Atira is working with BC Housing, Vancouver Coastal Health, the VPD and government ministries such as the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to confirm who resides in the building.

- On April 20, 2018, the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services issued an order requiring the immediate closure of the Regent bar based on numerous fire bylaw violations identified during an inspection. The closure does not apply to the housing units.
- Violations include: numerous penetrations of the ceiling/firestop, rags stuffed behind fire alarm system bells rendering them inaudible, emergency exits obstructed, excessive combustibles stored in the bar area, and fire department connections clogged with debris.

**VENUE DESCRIPTION**

New supportive housing building (Jubilee Rooms)

**EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS)**

Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
 Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver  
 Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction  
 Catherine Hume or Greg Richmond, co-executive director, RainCity Housing

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**KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS**

Supportive housing non-profits  
 City of Vancouver staff and council  
 Housing advocates

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

People in need of housing or at risk of homelessness  
 Housing advocates  
 Media

**Draft Program**

Time	Event Itinerary
12:15 p.m.	<b>Speakers arrive</b> at event location and meet with GCPE Event Co-ordinator for pre-brief
12:30 p.m.	<b>Emcee (TBC)</b> welcomes everyone, provides opening remarks, and introduces Mayor Gregor Robertson.
12:32 p.m.	<b>Mayor Gregor Robertson</b> announces the City of Vancouver’s actions with the Regent Hotel, and invites Minister Selina Robinson to announce the Province’s plans for tenants of the Regent.
12:35 p.m.	<b>Minister Selina Robinson</b> announces Province’s purchase of the Jubilee Rooms.
12:38 p.m.	<b>Emcee (TBC)</b> thanks Minister Selina Robinson, and introduces Minister Shane Simpson.
12:39 p.m.	<b>Minister Shane Simpson</b> provides supportive remarks and speaks about government’s plan to reduce poverty.
12:42 p.m.	<b>Emcee (TBC)</b> thanks Minister Shane Simpson and introduces Catherine Hume or Greg Richmond, co-executive director, RainCity Housing.
12:43 p.m.	<b>Rain City Housing Rep</b> speaks as validator to the announcement.
12:45 p.m.	s.13
12:46 p.m.	

12:48 p.m.	<b>Emcee (TBC)</b> thanks everyone, delivers closing remarks, and invites speakers for a group photograph.
12:50 p.m.	Group Photograph
12:52 p.m.	s.13
12:53 p.m.	Media Q&A, Moderated by XXXX
1:00 p.m.	Event complete.

## **VISUAL MESSAGE(S)**

### **DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)**

Minister Robinson, s.13 and Minister Simpson outside new supportive housing

## **Digital (social media) opportunities**

### **DESCRIBE**

Province, City of Vancouver, and BC Housing to co-ordinate sharing of social media content and news release on respective respective channels.

## **WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)**

### **DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE**

Because of our partnerships, and actions by the City of Vancouver and the Government of BC, people who were living in deplorable conditions at the Regent Hotel now have a warm and supportive place to live.

### **DRAFT Key Messages**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Our government is taking action by purchasing 78 units of housing in the Jubilee Rooms on Main Street.
- s.13
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.

**From:** [Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Kilpatrick, Melanie GCPE:EX](#); [Duncan, Michael GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW -- BCH follow-up media request: Social housing in Vancouver  
**Date:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 2:53:04 PM

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Kate, for review, here's a BC Housing follow-up response.

Thanks  
Darren

**Reporter**

Peter Mitham, Freelancer  
Business in Vancouver  
pmitham@telus.net  
604-737-7069

**Deadline ASAP**

**Request**

I understand from BC Housing's 2011-12 annual report that BC Housing accommodated 41,043 households in independent social housing in the year ended March 31, 2012. I am seeking the latest comparable figure to this, which doesn't seem to be in the latest annual service plan report. Could you provide a number, ideally with a tally of the number of buildings BC Housing operates, please? (I assume that the households were accommodated in BC Housing-managed buildings.)

**Suggested Response:**

The following is the number of independent social housing units managed by BC Housing and non-profit societies funded by BC Housing.

Note: BC Housing only tracks units where we have a financial relationship. There maybe be other subsidized housing units in the community.

The decrease in number of projects is due to a combination of the transfer of one of the Indigenous housing programs to Indigenous ownership, some operating agreements for projects expiring over time, and those units becoming inactive.

**2011 – 2012 fiscal**

Number of projects: 1655

Number of units: 41,043

## **2017 – 2018 fiscal**

Number of projects: 1154

Number of units: 39,945

### **Background**

This is a follow-up to a media request from July 13, 2018.

#### *REQUEST:*

1. How does the latest announcement of the province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms for \$12.5 million either extend the existing portfolio of social housing or speak to a new direction for managing social housing?
  
2. What is the total number of units purchased by the province over the past decade, and the volume of new construction and total number of social housing units held by the province in Vancouver?

#### *RESPONSE:*

Provided Background

1. How does the latest announcement of the province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms for \$12.5 million either extend the existing portfolio of social housing or speak to a new direction for managing social housing?

This is not a new direction – it is a response to an extraordinary circumstance of immediate health and safety concerns, and the requirement to relocate people in response to the City of Vancouver's order to close the Regent Hotel. The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is unacceptable and nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.

With the purchase of the Jubilee rooms, residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Jubilee Rooms provide approximately 80 rooms for former residents of the Regent Hotel.

The funding for this new housing is part of the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund that the Province launched in February as part of the Government of British Columbia's 10-year housing plan.

These badly needed units are among the 2,500 additional supportive homes with 24/7 supports that the Province will be building to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Those 2,500 units are in addition to the 2,000 units of modular housing being built in partnership with local governments throughout British Columbia.

2. What is the total number of units purchased by the province over the past decade, and the volume of new construction and total number of social housing units held by the province in Vancouver?



We can provide the past two years' worth of data for the number of units purchased by the Province. Prior to this, the data source did not differentiate between new builds vs. purchases.

Provincewide, 1,019 units were purchased in 2017/18; 462 units were purchased in 2016/17.

The Province supports 5,053 units of social housing in Vancouver. In addition, there are currently 941 units of social housing in development and 1,433 units under construction in Vancouver.

**From:** [Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: MAH Media Request: Social housing in Vancouver  
**Date:** Monday, July 16, 2018 9:49:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Kate, here's one from BC Housing – approved by Greg.

**Reporter**

Peter Mitham, Freelancer  
Business in Vancouver  
pmitham@telus.net  
604-737-7069

**Deadline** Monday, July 16, 2018 12:00 PM

**Request**

**How does the latest announcement of the Province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms for \$12.5 million either extend the existing portfolio of social housing or speak to a new direction for managing social housing?**

- s.13

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**2. What is the total number of units purchased by the Province over the past decade, and the volume of new construction and total number of social housing units held by the Province in Vancouver?**

- We can provide the past two years' worth of data for the number of units purchased by the Province. Prior to this, the data source did not differentiate between new builds vs. purchases.

Year	Units
2017/18	1019
2016/17	462

- The Province supports 5,053 units of social housing in Vancouver.
- s.13

**From:** [Duncan, Michael GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX](#); [Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX](#); [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW -- MEDIA REQUEST - CBC - Regent/Jubilee  
**Date:** Friday, July 6, 2018 11:14:40 AM

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Hello Craig,

Please see the suggested media response below for review. This will go through BC Housing for the response.

**Reporter:** CBC – John Hernandez

**Time of request:** July 5 @ 12:30 pm

**Reporter’s deadline:** July 5 @ EOD

**Request:** Reporter is writing the Regent/Jubilee.

**Question:**

**Reporter is wondering if people that were transferred into the Regent to Jubilee were bumped on the waiting list. He has been told that people who have been on the waiting list for years that they are being bumped.**

**Recommended BC Housing response:**

s.13

When a unit through BC Housing’s Housing Registry becomes available, priority is given to those in greatest need and a number of variables are considered:

- Women who have left a violent relationship receive priority placement.
- Health concerns may necessitate a specific type of unit to address the individual’s needs.
- Stability of current accommodation - for example a family living in shared accommodations or a family of four in a cramped apartment.

Individuals applying for social housing can apply through the Housing Registry, or through social housing lists that are managed by individual non-profit housing societies.

**From:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Municipal Affairs and Housing Media Report – June 20, 2018  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 3:59:53 PM

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**From:** Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 3:46 PM  
**To:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Municipal Affairs and Housing Media Report – June 20, 2018

## **Municipal Affairs and Housing Media Report – June 20, 2018**

New

**Reporter:** Vanessa Yberra, Pulse FM

**Request:** Reporter would like to arrange an interview with MLA Bruce Ralston for mid-week next week to discuss the move of campers to modular housing in Surrey. How did the relocation go? How is the neighborhood adjusting/ reacting? How long will residents get to stay there? General rundown of the plans for the residents and the site. Monday or Tuesday would work for her.

**Deadline:** June 21

**Status:** With MO (GCPE request)

**Reporter:** Mike Hager, Globe and Mail

**Request:** Reporter is looking for confirmation from the announcement today. The difference between the appraisal and the assessments are quite different, why? If the building was purchased for 12.5M does that include the renovation costs? Also, can you confirm the purchase date was May 31st?

**Deadline:** June 20 ASAP

**Status:** With BCH (GCPE request)

**Reporter:** Pippa Reed, CKNW Radio

**Request:** Producer is requesting Minister Robinson for an interview tomorrow morning on the John McComb Show. Times available are: 7:07am, 7:35am, 8:40am or 9:07am, for 5-6 mins.

**Deadline:** June 20 ASAP

**Status:** With MO (GCPE request)

**Reporter:** Janet Brown, CKNW Radio

**Request:** Reporter would like to know as of today, how many tents/homeless people remain on the Whalley strip please?

**Deadline:** June 20 ASAP

**Status:** With MO (BCH request)

Complete

**Reporter:** Amber Ni, OMNI TV

**Request:** Reporter would like to get some updates from BC Housing regarding the Surrey tent city move. She would also like to request an interview with Brenda Prosen today before 2pm.

Questions would be: How many of them have moved in? How many more yet to move? Any concerns and challenges for far? Is this move may take longer?

**Deadline:** June 20 ASAP

**BC Housing Response:** Interview scheduled with BC Housing

**Reporter:** Monica Gul, News 1130

**Request:** The reporter would like to know what the occupancy level is at the Reiderman Residence and if there have been any tenants who have moved in and then moved out.

**Deadline:** June 20 @ 4:00pm

**BC Housing Response:** Copyright

Copyright

**Reporter:** Bob Mackin, The Breaker

**Request:** Reporter wants to know who was the vendor/previous owner of the Jubilee was? Who was the agent or broker for the transaction?

**Deadline:** June 20 ASAP

**GCPE-MAH Response:** The buildings were owned by 235 Main Street Holdings Ltd., and 237 Main Street Holdings Ltd., respectively. The transaction was negotiated directly between the vendor and BC Housing.



RSVP	First Name
	Cassie J.
	Shayne
	Dan
	Michael
	Craig
	Donna
	Wendy
	John
	Mike
	Armin
	Dale
	Dominic
	Rob
	Carly
	Naomi
	Raymond
	Bruk
	Brenda
	Roberta
	Rob
	Margaret
	Jill
	Dan

# Jubi

## Last Name

Doyle

Ramsey

Maxwell

Flanigan

Crawford

Freeman

Acheson

Bell

Pistrin

Amrolia

McMann

Flanagan

Viccars

Hunter

Brunemeyer

Kwong

Melles

Prosken

Randall

Turnbull

Pfoh

Atkey

Russel

# lee Rooms Invitation List

Title	Organization
Board Chair	BC Housing
CEO	BC Housing
CFO & VP of Corporate Services	BC Housing
VP of Development Services/Asset Strategies	BC Housing
VP of Operations	BC Housing
VP, Communications	BC Housing
Vice-President and Registrar, Licensing and Consumer Services	BC Housing
Chief Advisor, Strategic Planning, Governance & Sustainability	BC Housing
Associate Vice President of Asset Strategies	BC Housing
Associate Vice President of Development and HousingHub	BC Housing
Executive Director, Lower Mainland Directly Managed Operations	BC Housing
Executive Director, Supportive Housing & Programs	BC Housing
Manager, Communications	BC Housing
Senior Communications Officer	BC Housing
Director, Regional Development, Lower Mainland	BC Housing
Regional Director, HousingHub	BC Housing
Director Supportive Housing & Program	BC Housing
Director, Regional Operations Orange Hall	BC Housing
Senior Manager, Community Relations	BC Housing
President and CEO	streetohome foundation
CEO	Aboriginal Housing Management A
Acting CEO	BCNPHA
Director of Programs	Union Gospel Mission



  
**Email**

s.22

<a href="mailto:sramsay@bchousing.org">sramsay@bchousing.org</a>
<a href="mailto:danmaxwell@bchousing.org">danmaxwell@bchousing.org</a>
<a href="mailto:mflanigan@bchousing.org">mflanigan@bchousing.org</a>
<a href="mailto:ccrawford@bchousing.org">ccrawford@bchousing.org</a>
<a href="mailto:dfreeman@bchousing.org">dfreeman@bchousing.org</a>
<a href="mailto:wacheson@bchousing.org">wacheson@bchousing.org</a>
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<a href="mailto:mpfoh@ahma-bc.org">mpfoh@ahma-bc.org</a>
<a href="mailto:jill@bcnpha.ca">jill@bcnpha.ca</a>
<a href="mailto:drussell@ugm.ca">drussell@ugm.ca</a>

**From:** [Duncan, Michael GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Municipal Affairs and Housing Media Report – July 16, 2018  
**Date:** Monday, July 16, 2018 4:46:03 PM

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## **Municipal Affairs and Housing Media Report – July 16, 2018**

### **New:**

Carla Wilson - Times Colonist  
ISSUE: Services to tent cities in BC  
STATUS: With Program Area

### **Closed:**

Peter Mitham - Business in Vancouver  
ISSUE: Social housing in Vancouver  
STATUS: Provided Background

- 1. How does the latest announcement of the province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms for \$12.5 million either extend the existing portfolio of social housing or speak to a new direction for managing social housing?

This is not a new direction – it is a response to an extraordinary circumstance of immediate health and safety concerns, and the requirement to relocate people in response to the City of Vancouver's order to close the Regent Hotel. The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is unacceptable and nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.

With the purchase of the Jubilee rooms, residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Jubilee Rooms provide approximately 80 rooms for former residents of the Regent Hotel.

The funding for this new housing is part of the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund that the Province launched in February as part of the Government of British Columbia's 10-year housing plan.

These badly needed units are among the 2,500 additional supportive homes with 24/7 supports that the Province will be building to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Those 2,500 units are in addition to the 2,000 units of modular housing being built in partnership with local governments throughout British Columbia.

2. What is the total number of units purchased by the province over the past decade, and the volume of new construction and total number of social housing units held by the province in Vancouver?

We can provide the past two years' worth of data for the number of units purchased by the Province. Prior to this, the data source did not differentiate between new builds vs. purchases.

Provincewide, 1,019 units were purchased in 2017/18; 462 units were purchased in 2016/17.

The Province supports 5,053 units of social housing in Vancouver. In addition, there are currently 941 units of social housing in development and 1,433 units under construction in Vancouver.

Vancouver SROs

When can we announce

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Scenario:

June 19: The Province announces that the building has been purchased for the purpose of housing people who need it. The Province will work with the City of Vancouver, BC Housing, Atira and RainCity to ensure people from the Regent are given priority to move into the Jubilee and that all compensation owed to them will be provided.

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**Jubilee Rooms Announcement  
Questions & Answers  
June 20, 2018**

*Advice to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

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**Key Messages:**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Our government is taking action by purchasing 78 units of housing in the Jubilee Rooms on Main Street.
- s.13
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.

**1) Why has it taken a full year for government to act on this?**

- s.13
- It takes partnerships between governments, the private sector, non-profits and service providers all pulling in the same direction to make housing available to people who desperately need it, and I'm happy that has happened here.
- The Regent is a private SRO and so, while I can't speak for the City of Vancouver, part of the problem was that until now there has not been a willing and helpful provincial government to help address the problem.
- I asked staff to work with the city on a solution and I am pleased that our government has been able to move swiftly after so many years of inaction.
- Because of this partnership between the City and the Province, people at the Regent will finally be treated with fairness, and that is what matters most.

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Comment [SM1]:S. 13  
s.13

**3) How many other rental buildings do the Sahotas still operate, and what is the status of those buildings?**

- The Sahotas still own and operate the following SROs: Astoria, Cobalt, and The Regal. They also own other rental properties.
- Questions about the status of those buildings should be referred to the City of Vancouver.

**4) Should the Province heighten regulation of SROs?**

- s.13
- Bylaw enforcement is the responsibility of a local government.
- We will, however, work in partnership with local governments to ensure people's housing needs are being met, and that people are treated with fairness.

**5) Do municipal governments, like Vancouver, need more authority or tools from the Province to take meaningful action on repeat offenders?**

- s.13
- 

**6) Does the Province have any say in the future purpose of the Regent?**

- Its future use will be up to its owner and local zoning bylaws.

**7) There are more than S. people in the Regent, but there is only room for 78 people at the Jubilee Rooms. Where will the rest of the people go?**

- s.13
- Since Atira has taken over management of the building, the City and BC Housing have been working with them to find alternative housing for tenants who wanted to move.
- s.13
- Arrangements have been made with other non-profit housing providers and BC Housing-operated buildings to hold vacant units should they be needed.
- There will be sufficient housing to relocate all the Regent tenants into permanent housing.

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**8) With the new building having S. units, does that mean S. tenants will be moving in? Or are the SROs available to be shared by couples, and people with children?**

- The Jubilee Rooms will be for tenants of the Regent Hotel, should they choose.
- There are no families or children at the Regent Hotel, so there will not be children at the Jubilee Rooms.

- Couples will be accommodated elsewhere, or in side-by-side rooms at the Jubilee Rooms, as the rooms are too small for couples.

**9) How were people selected to move to the new building when there is not enough room for everybody?**

- A thorough assessment process is underway to determine tenant support needs and which buildings/housing providers would best meet their needs.
- There will be sufficient housing to relocate all the Regent tenants into permanent housing.

**10) What happens to people who don't want to move?**

- We recognize that moving into a new living arrangement can be difficult and stressful. s.13 s.13
- At the end of the day, the first step to transitioning toward a more stable life is moving into a better environment.

**11) What compensation will the Regent tenants receive for being evicted?**

- The owners of the building are legally responsible for providing compensation and alternative housing options.
- Compensation packages will meet the requirements of the Residential Tenancy Branch and City of Vancouver policies.

**12) How will this change the living situation for Regent tenants?**

- The conditions of the Regent are unhealthy, unsafe and unlivable.
- While Atira's staff have done their best to offer much-needed support services to Regent tenants, the building's condition is not sustainable and it should not be available to house anyone.
- In new the new buildings, tenants will be safer and housed in livable conditions, and that will make a big difference in their lives.
- Moving to other housing that is better maintained, where support services and other life skills programs are provided, and in some instances, where meal services will be offered, will be a major improvement for Regent tenants.

**13) Will tenants' rental rates be raised?**

- Rental rates will remain at the \$375 shelter rate.

**14) Who owned the buildings you purchased, and how much were they purchased for?**

- The buildings were owned by: 235 Main Street Holdings Ltd. and 237 Main Street Holdings Ltd. respectively. s.13 s.13

**15) What were the Jubilee Rooms previously used for?**

- The Jubilee Rooms were being rented by a private owner.

**16) Where is the money coming from to buy these buildings?**

- The funding for the purchase came from the Building BC: Supportive Housing program.

**17) Who will operate the new buildings?**

- RainCity Housing Society has been identified as the preferred operator for the property due to their experience and capacity to operate this project as soon as possible.

**18) What are the rules for people who live in the new buildings?**

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- The operators will ensure the building is as accessible to all. (i.e., pets and carts will be allowed).

**19) Is the Province going to purchase other SROs?**

- BC Housing has no plans to purchase any other SROs at this time.
- This was an action we took to get vulnerable people into housing, which will allow them to focus on other areas of their lives.

**20) What modular housing options are coming to the area?**

- There are modular housing options are coming to Franklin Street, Powell Street and Cambie Street.
- These housing projects are bringing a fast, effective response to the growing issue of homelessness here in Vancouver, and throughout the Province.

**21) What is the Province doing to crack down on landlords like the Sahota family?**

- s.13
- The City of Vancouver has the regulatory authority to crack down on negligent landlords.
- In the Fall, we amended the RTA to make it easier to apply administrative penalties.
- We have also appointed a Rental Housing Task force to take a deeper look at the rental industry in our province, with a view to making recommendations for change.

**22) What is the status of the Compliance Unit you announced in September?**

- The branch is in the process of hiring four staff members for the compliance unit and we are expecting it to be operational very soon.
- The new compliance unit will improve the branch's ability to investigate complaints and take action, where necessary, against landlords and tenants who are repeat or serious offenders.

**23) How will the Compliance Unit help in these types of situations?**



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**Jubilee Rooms Announcement  
Questions & Answers  
June 20, 2018**

*Advice to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

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**Key Messages:**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Our government is taking action by purchasing 78 units of housing in the Jubilee Rooms on Main Street.
- s.13
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.

**1) Why has it taken a full year for government to act on this?**

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- It takes partnerships between governments, the private sector, non-profits and service providers all pulling in the same direction to make housing available to people who desperately need it, and I'm happy that has happened here.
- The Regent is a private SRO and so, while I can't speak for the City of Vancouver, part of the problem was that until now there has not been a willing and helpful provincial government to help address the problem.
- I asked staff to work with the city on a solution and I am pleased that our government has been able to move swiftly after so many years of inaction.
- Because of this partnership between the City and the Province, people at the Regent will finally be treated with fairness, and that is what matters most.

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**3) How many other rental buildings do the Sahotas still operate, and what is the status of those buildings?**

- The Sahotas still own and operate the following SROs: Astoria, Cobalt, and The Regal. They also own other rental properties.
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- Bylaw enforcement is the responsibility of a local government.
- We will, however, work in partnership with local governments to ensure people's housing needs are being met, and that people are treated with fairness.

**5) Do municipal governments, like Vancouver, need more authority or tools from the Province to take meaningful action on repeat offenders?**

- s.13
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**6) Does the Province have any say in the future purpose of the Regent?**

- Its future use will be up to its owner and local zoning bylaws.

**7) s.13**

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- Since Atira has taken over management of the building, the City and BC Housing have been working with them to find alternative housing for tenants who wanted to move.
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- Arrangements have been made with other non-profit housing providers and BC Housing-operated buildings to hold vacant units should they be needed.
- There will be sufficient housing to relocate all the Regent tenants into permanent housing.

**8) With the new building having S. units, does that mean S. tenants will be moving in? Or are the SROs available to be shared by couples, and people with children?**

- The Jubilee Rooms will be for tenants of the Regent Hotel, should they choose.
- There are no families or children at the Regent Hotel, so there will not be children at the Jubilee Rooms.
- Couples will be accommodated elsewhere, or in side-by-side rooms at the Jubilee Rooms, as the rooms are too small for couples.

**9) How were people selected to move to the new building when there is not enough room for everybody?**

- A thorough assessment process is underway to determine tenant support needs and which buildings/housing providers would best meet their needs.
- There will be sufficient housing to relocate all the Regent tenants into permanent housing.

**10) What happens to people who don't want to move?**

- We recognize that moving into a new living arrangement can be difficult and stressful s.13 s.13
- At the end of the day, the first step to transitioning toward a more stable life is moving into a better environment.

**11) What compensation will the Regent tenants receive for being evicted?**

- The owners of the building are legally responsible for providing compensation and alternative housing options.
- Compensation packages will meet the requirements of the Residential Tenancy Branch and City of Vancouver policies.

**12) How will this change the living situation for Regent tenants?**

- The conditions of the Regent are unhealthy, unsafe and unlivable.
- While Atira's staff have done their best to offer much-needed support services to Regent tenants, the building's condition is not sustainable and it should not be available to house anyone.
- In new the new buildings, tenants will be safer and housed in livable conditions, and that will make a big difference in their lives.
- Moving to other housing that is better maintained, where support services and other life skills programs are provided, and in some instances, where meal services will be offered, will be a major improvement for Regent tenants.

**13) Will tenants' rental rates be raised?**

- Rental rates will remain at the \$375 shelter rate.

**14) Who owned the buildings you purchased, and how much were they purchased for?**

- The buildings were owned by: 235 Main Street Holdings Ltd. and 237 Main Street Holdings Ltd. respectively. s.13 s.13

**15) What were the Jubilee Rooms previously used for?**

- The Jubilee Rooms were being rented by a private owner.

**16) Where is the money coming from to buy these buildings?**

- The funding for the purchase came from the Building BC: Supportive Housing program.

**17) Who will operate the new buildings?**

- RainCity Housing Society has been identified as the preferred operator for the property due to their experience and capacity to operate this project as soon as possible.

**18) What are the rules for people who live in the new buildings?**

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- The operators will ensure the building is as accessible to all. (i.e., pets and carts will be allowed).

**19) Is the Province going to purchase other SROs?**

- BC Housing has no plans to purchase any other SROs at this time.
- This was an action we took to get vulnerable people into housing, which will allow them to focus on other areas of their lives.

**20) What modular housing options are coming to the area?**

- There are modular housing options are coming to Franklin Street, Powell Street and Cambie Street.
- These housing projects are bringing a fast, effective response to the growing issue of homelessness here in Vancouver, and throughout the Province.

**21) What is the Province doing to crack down on landlords like the Sahota family?**

- s.13
- The City of Vancouver has the regulatory authority to crack down on negligent landlords.
- In the Fall, we amended the RTA to make it easier to apply administrative penalties.
- We have also appointed a Rental Housing Task force to take a deeper look at the rental industry in our province, with a view to making recommendations for change.

**22) What is the status of the Compliance Unit you announced in September?**

- The branch is in the process of hiring four staff members for the compliance unit and we are expecting it to be operational very soon.
- The new compliance unit will improve the branch's ability to investigate complaints and take action, where necessary, against landlords and tenants who are repeat or serious offenders.

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**23) How will the Compliance Unit help in these types of situations?**

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- The new compliance unit will improve the Residential Tenancy Branch's ability to investigate complaints and take action, where necessary, against landlords and tenants who are repeat or serious offenders.
- The branch is in the process of hiring four staff members for the compliance unit and we are expecting it to be operational very soon.

**Jubilee Rooms Announcement**  
**Questions & Answers**  
**June 20, 2018**

*Advice to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

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**Key Messages:**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Given the need for an emergency response in light of the city’s closure, our government has purchased two buildings on Main Street to provide better housing for people who need it.
- Residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.

**1) Why has it taken a full year for government to act on this?**

- As you can see from our announcement today, it takes partnership between governments, non-profits and service providers all pulling in the same direction to make housing available to people who desperately need it, and I’m happy that has happened here.
- The Regent is a private SRO and so, while I can’t speak for the City of Vancouver, part of the problem was that until now there has not been a willing and helpful provincial government to help address the problem.
- I asked staff to work with the city on a solution and I am pleased that our government has been able to move swiftly after so many years of inaction.
- Because of this partnership between the City and the Province, people at the Regent will finally be treated with decency, and that is what matters most.

**2) Are there future housing options available at the Regent – what happens now?**

- The City and BC Housing to determine if any future housing options are available.

**3) The Balmoral is still sitting empty. Why hasn't government done anything about it?**

- It is unfortunate that the Balmoral remains closed.
- We support the City in their work to provide housing options to people who need it, including supporting the City of Vancouver's response to homelessness through \$66 million in funding for 600 units of modular housing from the Building BC: Rapid Response to Homelessness program.
- We are making the largest investment in affordable housing in B.C.'s history.
- We are ready to partner with communities, including the City of Vancouver, to build tens of thousands of affordable homes for people.

**4) This sounds like Vancouver is losing low-income rental stock. Why make a move that has that implication?**

*FOR CITY RESPONSE*

- This was an emergency situation for the people living in the Regent, and it is important to note that people have been moving out of the Regent for months with the help of Atira.
- Safe and supportive accommodation will be offered to everyone living at the Regent.

**5) How many other rental buildings do the Sahotas still operate, and what is the status of those buildings?**

*FOR CITY RESPONSE*

- The Sahotas still own and operate the following SROs: Astoria, Cobalt, and The Regal. They also own other rental properties.
- Questions about the status of those buildings should be referred to the City of Vancouver.

**6) Should the Province heighten regulation of SROs?**

- Bylaw enforcement is the responsibility of a local government.
- We will, however, work in partnership with local governments to ensure people's housing needs are being met, and that people are treated with fairness.

**7) Do municipal governments, like Vancouver, need more authority or tools from the Province to take meaningful action on repeat offenders?**

- The City of Vancouver has raised this concern. The Province is currently conducting more policy work to fully consider the implications of such a change.

**8) Does the Province have any say in the future purpose of the Regent?**

- Its future use will be up to its owner and local zoning bylaws. There is no question this needs to be resolved.



**9) How many rooms are in the new buildings?**

- There are currently 78 rooms in the new buildings.

**10) There are more than 80 people in the Regent (currently 92), but there is only room for 78 people at the Jubilee Rooms. Where will the rest of the people go?**

- Since Atira has taken over management of the building, the City and BC Housing have been working with them to find alternative housing for all of the tenants who wanted to move.
- As of June 18, approximately 50 people have been assisted with moving to other safe, permanent supportive housing.
- Arrangements have been made with other non-profit housing providers and BC Housing-operated buildings to hold vacant units should they be needed.
- There will be sufficient housing to relocate all the Regent tenants into permanent housing.

**11) With the new building having 78 units, does that mean 78 tenants will be moving in? Or are the SROs available to be shared by couples, and people with children?**

- The Jubilee Rooms will be for tenants of the Regent Hotel, should they choose.
- There are no families or children at the Regent Hotel, so there will not be children at the Jubilee Rooms.
- Couples will be accommodated elsewhere, or in side-by-side rooms at the Jubilee Rooms, as the rooms are too small for couples.

**12) How were people selected to move to the new building when there is not enough room for everybody?**

- Those tenants interested in moving before the new building was available have been moved to other affordable housing locations.
- A thorough assessment process is underway to determine tenant support needs and which buildings/housing providers would best meet their needs.
- There will be sufficient housing to relocate all the Regent tenants into permanent housing.

**13) What happens to people who don't want to move?**

- We recognize that moving into a new living arrangement can be difficult and stressful.
- The building will be closed by June 28<sup>th</sup>. We will work with each individual prior to the closure to determine the next steps they feel comfortable with and that will meet their needs. Their wellbeing is the primary concern.
- At the end of the day, the first step to transitioning toward a more stable life is moving into a better environment.

**14) What compensation will the Regent tenants receive for being evicted?**

- The owners of the building are legally responsible for providing compensation and alternative housing options.
- Compensation packages will meet the requirements of the Residential Tenancy Branch and City of Vancouver policies.
- All tenants will receive compensation, moving support, and alternative housing.

**15) How will this change the living situation for Regent tenants?**

- The conditions of the Regent are unhealthy and unsafe.
- While Atira's staff have done their best to offer much-needed support services to Regent tenants, the building's condition is not sustainable and it should not be available to house anyone.
- In the new buildings, tenants will be safer and housed in livable conditions, and that will make a big difference in their lives.
- Moving to other housing that is better maintained, where support services and other life skills programs are provided, and in some instances, where meal services will be offered, will be a major improvement for Regent tenants.

**16) Will tenants' rental rates be raised?**

- Rental rates will remain at the \$375 shelter rate.

**17) Who owned the buildings you purchased, and how much were they purchased for?**

- The buildings were owned by: 235 Main Street Holdings Ltd. and 237 Main Street Holdings Ltd. respectively. They were purchased for approximately \$12.5 million.
- A recent market appraisal has been commissioned which has valued the property in excess of \$13 million.
- The Province has also funded renovations to the buildings.

**18) What were the Jubilee Rooms previously used for?**

- The Jubilee Rooms were being rented by a private owner.
- The Jubilee Rooms were vacant when purchased by BC Housing. The previous owner moved four tenants to other properties prior to BC Housing possession.

**19) Where is the money coming from to buy these buildings?**

- The funding for the purchase came from the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund.
- As part of *Budget 2018*, the Province announced \$1.2 billion over 10 years to build and operate 2,500 units of supportive housing.
- The Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund will provide much-needed permanent housing for those that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This new housing will be provided with around-the-clock staffing to support tenants based on their assessed needs.
- The projects will be provincially owned through BC Housing's land holding corporation, the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation, and will be operated by experienced non-profit housing providers.
- While select projects are commencing now, an Expression of Interest will be issued later this year to identify interested non-profit housing providers.

**20) Who will operate the new buildings?**

- RainCity Housing Society has been identified as the preferred operator for the property due to their experience and capacity to operate this project as soon as possible.

**21) What are the rules for people who live in the new buildings?**

- The tenants will be expected to behave in a way that enables everyone living in the building to have a safe and secure place to live.
- The operators will ensure the building is accessible (i.e., pets and carts will be allowed).

**22) Is the Province going to purchase other SROs?**

- BC Housing has no plans to purchase any other SROs at this time.
- This was an action we took to get vulnerable people into housing, which will allow them to focus on other areas of their lives.

**23) What modular housing options are coming to the area?**

- There are modular housing options coming to Franklin Street, Powell Street and Cambie Street.
- These housing projects are bringing a fast, effective response to the growing issue of homelessness here in Vancouver, and throughout the Province.

**24) Will SRO tenants be eligible for the modular housing?**

- The modular housing being developed through the Building BC: Rapid Response to Homelessness program is focused on people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, who are currently either living on the streets or in shelters.
- The priority of the modular housing is for those local individuals experiencing homeless. As this is part of the housing continuum, individuals at shelters will also be considered.

**25) What is the Province doing to crack down on landlords like the Sahota family?**

- The City of Vancouver has the regulatory authority to crack down on negligent landlords.
- In the fall, we amended the Residential Tenancy Act to make it easier to apply administrative penalties.
- We have also appointed a Rental Housing Task Force to take a deeper look at the rental industry in our province, with a view to making recommendations for change.

**26) What is the status of the RTB Compliance Unit you announced in September?**

- The branch is in the process of hiring four staff members for the compliance unit and we are expecting it to be operational very soon.
- The new compliance unit will improve the branch's ability to investigate complaints and take action, where necessary, against landlords and tenants who are repeat or serious offenders.

**27) How will the Compliance Unit help in these types of situations?**

- The new compliance unit will improve the Residential Tenancy Branch's ability to investigate complaints and take action, where necessary, against landlords and tenants who are repeat or serious offenders.
- The branch is in the process of hiring four staff members for the compliance unit and we are expecting it to be operational very soon.

**From:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Courier request  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 11:46:48 AM

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**From:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 11:46 AM  
**To:** 'Stasila, Lauren'  
**Cc:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Courier request

We should have time for a call in the afternoon – probably best to wait until our event planners have done their site visit. Thinking around 2:15 p.m. for a call, what works for you?

Scott

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**From:** Stasila, Lauren [<mailto:Lauren.Stasila@vancouver.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 11:44 AM  
**To:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Courier request

I'm trying as fast as I can! Our whole team is in council today but are reviewing as they can. I don't have an ETA at this point. s.13

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We have our own FAQ that I can share that will be faster for you to pull info into, but I need another few hours with it.

s.13

quick call today?

– is there time to jump on a

**Lauren Stasila** | Communications Manager  
Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver  
t. 604.871.6119 m. 604.356.9822  
[lauren.stasila@vancouver.ca](mailto:lauren.stasila@vancouver.ca)

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**From:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX [<mailto:Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 11:39 AM  
**To:** Stasila, Lauren  
**Cc:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Courier request

Thanks Lauren. Do you have a timeline on the QA and the NR?

Scott

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**From:** Stasila, Lauren [<mailto:Lauren.Stasila@vancouver.ca>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 11:15 AM  
**To:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Courier request

Thanks for sharing Scott.

**Lauren Stasila** | Communications Manager  
Corporate Communications | City of Vancouver  
t. 604.871.6119 m. 604.356.9822  
[lauren.stasila@vancouver.ca](mailto:lauren.stasila@vancouver.ca)

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**From:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX [mailto:Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 11:08 AM  
**To:** Stasila, Lauren  
**Cc:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Courier request

Hi Lauren, wanted to share with you the media request we've received from the Courier, and our planned response:

### **Request**

Reporter has learned the provincial government (BC Housing) has purchased the Jubilee Rooms at 235/237 Main St. The previous owner confirmed this when he called him yesterday. There might be a newser this week, possibly tomorrow? What can you tell me about this purchase?

### **Response**

- BC Housing has purchased the Jubilee Rooms.
- Further information about plans for the properties are not yet ready to be announced.

Scott McKenzie  
Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Communications  
P: 778 698-7596  
C:s.17

From: [Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX](#)  
To: [Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX](#); [Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX](#)  
Cc: [Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX](#); [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#); [McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: Re: For APPROVAL: Media Request: The Breaker: Regent Hotel  
Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 2:33:15 PM

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Approved

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX" <[Lindsay.Byers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Byers@gov.bc.ca)>  
Date: 2018-06-20 2:29 PM (GMT-08:00)  
To: "Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX" <[Craig.Ashbourne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Craig.Ashbourne@gov.bc.ca)>, "Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX" <[Daniela.Gardea@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Daniela.Gardea@gov.bc.ca)>  
Cc: "Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX" <[Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca)>, "Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX" <[Kate.Mukasa@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kate.Mukasa@gov.bc.ca)>, "McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX" <[Scott.I.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Scott.I.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca)>  
Subject: For APPROVAL: Media Request: The Breaker: Regent Hotel

Craig,

Response to go from the ministry.

**Reporter**      Bob Mackin, Reporter  
Freelancer  
[bob@thebreaker.news](mailto:bob@thebreaker.news)  
604-982-9130 c: 604-724-5604

**Deadline**      **June 20 ASAP**

**Request**

Reporter wants to know who was the vendor/previous owner of the Jubilee was? Who was the agent or broker for the transaction?

**Suggested Response**

- The buildings were owned by 235 Main Street Holdings Ltd., and 237 Main Street Holdings Ltd., respectively.
- The transaction was negotiated directly between the vendor and BC Housing.

**From:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX](#); [McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: For APPROVAL: Media Request: Vancouver Courier: BC Housing Purchase of Jubilee Rooms  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 11:06:18 AM

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Scott, can you please share our response with Lauren before sending to reporter?

Thank you

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**From:** Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 10:54 AM  
**To:** Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX; Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX  
**Cc:** Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX; McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** For APPROVAL: Media Request: Vancouver Courier: BC Housing Purchase of Jubilee Rooms

Craig,

Response below to go from the ministry

**Reporter** Mike Howell, Reporter  
Vancouver Courier  
[mhowell@vancourier.com](mailto:mhowell@vancourier.com)  
604-630-3545 c: 778-994-7096

**Deadline** June 19 ASAP

**Request**

Reporter has learned the provincial government (BC Housing) has purchased the Jubilee Rooms at 235/237 Main St. The previous owner confirmed this when he called him yesterday. There might be a newser this week, possibly tomorrow? What can you tell me about this purchase?

**Suggested Response**

- BC Housing has purchased the Jubilee Rooms.
- Further information about plans for the properties are not yet ready to be announced.



**From:** [Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX](#)  
**To:** [Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#); [Kilpatrick, Melanie GCPE:EX](#); [Duncan, Michael GCPE:EX](#); [Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW -- BCH follow-up media request: Social housing in Vancouver  
**Date:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 4:04:14 PM

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Approved.

Craig Ashbourne  
Senior Ministerial Assistant  
**Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and responsible for Translink**  
C: 250-213-3187  
E: [craig.ashbourne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:craig.ashbourne@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 3:28 PM  
**To:** Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX  
**Cc:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX; Kilpatrick, Melanie GCPE:EX; Duncan, Michael GCPE:EX; Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW -- BCH follow-up media request: Social housing in Vancouver

Craig, for review, please see the following BC Housing media response – it's a follow-up.

Thanks  
Darren

**Reporter**

Peter Mitham, Freelancer  
Business in Vancouver  
[pmitham@telus.net](mailto:pmitham@telus.net)  
604-737-7069

**Deadline ASAP**

**Request**

I understand from BC Housing's 2011-12 annual report that BC Housing accommodated 41,043 households in independent social housing in the year ended March 31, 2012. I am seeking the latest comparable figure to this, which doesn't seem to be in the latest annual service plan report. Could you provide a number, ideally with a tally of the number of buildings BC Housing operates, please? (I assume that the households were accommodated in BC Housing-managed buildings.)

**Suggested Response:**

The following is the number of independent social housing units managed by BC Housing and non-profit societies funded by BC Housing.

Note: BC Housing only tracks units where we have a financial relationship. There maybe be other

subsidized housing units in the community.

The decrease in number of projects is due to a combination of the transfer of one of the Indigenous housing programs to Indigenous ownership, some operating agreements for projects expiring over time, and those units becoming inactive.

### **2011 – 2012 fiscal**

Number of projects: 1655

Number of units: 41,043

### **2017 – 2018 fiscal**

Number of projects: 1154

Number of units: 39,945

### **Background**

This is a follow-up to a media request from July 13, 2018.

#### *REQUEST:*

1. How does the latest announcement of the province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms for \$12.5 million either extend the existing portfolio of social housing or speak to a new direction for managing social housing?
2. What is the total number of units purchased by the province over the past decade, and the volume of new construction and total number of social housing units held by the province in Vancouver?

#### *RESPONSE:*

Provided Background

1. How does the latest announcement of the province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms for \$12.5 million either extend the existing portfolio of social housing or speak to a new direction for managing social housing?

This is not a new direction – it is a response to an extraordinary circumstance of immediate health and safety concerns, and the requirement to relocate people in response to the City of Vancouver's order to close the Regent Hotel. The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is unacceptable and nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.

With the purchase of the Jubilee rooms, residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Jubilee Rooms provide approximately 80 rooms for former residents of the Regent Hotel.

The funding for this new housing is part of the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund that the Province launched in February as part of the Government of British Columbia's 10-year housing plan.

These badly needed units are among the 2,500 additional supportive homes with 24/7 supports that the Province will be building to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Those 2,500 units are in addition to the 2,000 units of modular housing being built in partnership with local governments throughout British Columbia.

2. What is the total number of units purchased by the province over the past decade, and the volume of new construction and total number of social housing units held by the province in Vancouver?

We can provide the past two years' worth of data for the number of units purchased by the Province. Prior to this, the data source did not differentiate between new builds vs. purchases.

Provincewide, 1,019 units were purchased in 2017/18; 462 units were purchased in 2016/17.

The Province supports 5,053 units of social housing in Vancouver. In addition, there are currently 941 units of social housing in development and 1,433 units under construction in Vancouver.

**From:** [Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX](#)  
**To:** [Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX](#); [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW -- BCH Media Request: Social housing in Vancouver  
**Date:** Monday, July 16, 2018 11:49:29 AM

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A few tweaks, otherwise good. Can you confirm with staff that my additions in the highlighted section are accurate – that those are all social housing, and aren't captured in the 5,000 number above?

I'd still like to see that list before approving to send to the reporter though if they can provide it – but let me know if it's likely to take more than a few hours.

C

Craig Ashbourne  
Senior Ministerial Assistant  
**Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and responsible for Translink**  
C: 250-213-3187  
E: [craig.ashbourne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:craig.ashbourne@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2018 11:39 AM  
**To:** Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX  
**Cc:** Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX; Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW -- BCH Media Request: Social housing in Vancouver

Will do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 16, 2018, at 11:33 AM, Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX <[Craig.Ashbourne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Craig.Ashbourne@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

While I take a look at this, can we get a listing of those purchased units? That 1,000 number seems high – trying to place where those are.

C

Craig Ashbourne  
Senior Ministerial Assistant  
**Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and responsible for Translink**  
C: 250-213-3187  
E: [craig.ashbourne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:craig.ashbourne@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2018 11:28 AM  
**To:** Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX  
**Cc:** Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX; Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX

**Subject:** FOR REVIEW -- BCH Media Request: Social housing in Vancouver

Craig, for review, please see the following media response from BC Housing.

Thanks

Darren

**Reporter**

Peter Mitham, Freelancer  
Business in Vancouver  
[pmitham@telus.net](mailto:pmitham@telus.net)  
604-737-7069

**Deadline** Monday, July 16, 2018 12:00 PM

**Request**

**How does the latest announcement of the Province’s purchase of the Jubilee Rooms for \$12.5 million either extend the existing portfolio of social housing or speak to a new direction for managing social housing?**

- This is not a new direction – it is a response to an extraordinary circumstance of immediate health and safety concerns, and the requirement to relocate people in response to the City of Vancouver’s order to close the Regent Hotel. The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is unacceptable and nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- With the purchase of the Jubilee rooms, residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Jubilee Rooms provide approximately 80 rooms for former residents of the Regent Hotel.
- The funding for this new housing is part of the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund that the Province launched in February as part of the Government of British Columbia’s 10-year housing plan.
- These badly needed units are among the 2,500 additional supportive homes with 24/7 supports that the Province will be building to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Those 2,500 units are in addition to the 2,000 units of modular housing being built in partnership with local governments throughout British Columbia.

**2. What is the total number of units purchased by the Province over the past decade, and the volume of new construction and total number of social housing units held by the Province in Vancouver?**

- We can provide the past two years' worth of data for the number of units purchased by the Province. Prior to this, the data source did not differentiate between new builds vs. purchases.  
<image001.png>
- The Province supports 5,053 units of social housing in Vancouver.
- In addition, there are currently 941 units of social housing in development and 1,433 units under construction in Vancouver.

**From:** [Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX](#)  
**To:** [Duncan, Michael GCPE:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX](#); [Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX](#); [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#); [Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW -- MEDIA REQUEST - CBC - Regent/Jubilee  
**Date:** Friday, July 6, 2018 2:44:41 PM

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Approved.

Craig Ashbourne  
Senior Ministerial Assistant  
**Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and responsible for Translink**  
C: 250-213-3187  
E: [craig.ashbourne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:craig.ashbourne@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Duncan, Michael GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 2:30 PM  
**To:** Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX  
**Cc:** Gardea, Daniela MAH:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW -- MEDIA REQUEST - CBC - Regent/Jubilee

Hi Craig,

s.13

**Reporter:** CBC – John Hernandez  
**Time of request:** July 5 @ 12:30 pm  
**Reporter's deadline:** July 5 @ EOD  
**Request:** Reporter is writing the Regent/Jubilee.

**Question:**

**Reporter is wondering if people that were transferred into the Regent to Jubilee were bumped on the waiting list. He has been told that people who have been on the waiting list for years that they are being bumped.**

**Recommended BC Housing response:**

The Jubilee Rooms were purchased specifically to house people from the Regent Hotel, as this was an extraordinary circumstance of immediate health and safety concerns

Conditions at the Regent Hotel were unsafe and an urgent solution was necessary.

When a unit through BC Housing's Housing Registry becomes available, priority is given to those in greatest need and a number of variables are considered:

- Women who have left a violent relationship receive priority placement.
- Health concerns may necessitate a specific type of unit to address the individual's needs.

Stability of current accommodation - for example a family living in shared accommodations or a family of four in a cramped apartment.

Individuals applying for social housing can apply through the Housing Registry, or through social housing lists that are managed by individual non-profit housing societies.



**From:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW: MAH Media Request: Social housing in Vancouver  
**Date:** Monday, July 16, 2018 10:51:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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tweaks

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**From:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2018 9:49 AM  
**To:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: MAH Media Request: Social housing in Vancouver

Kate, here's one from BC Housing – approved by Greg.

**Reporter**

Peter Mitham, Freelancer  
Business in Vancouver  
pmitham@telus.net  
604-737-7069

**Deadline** Monday, July 16, 2018 12:00 PM

**Request**

**How does the latest announcement of the Province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms for \$12.5 million either extend the existing portfolio of social housing or speak to a new direction for managing social housing?**

s.13

**2. What is the total number of units purchased by the Province over the past decade, and the volume of new construction and total number of social housing units held by the Province in Vancouver?**

- We can provide the past two years' worth of data for the number of units purchased by the Province. Prior to this, the data source did not differentiate between new builds vs. purchases.

Year	Units
2017/18	1019
2016/17	462

- The Province supports 5,053 units of social housing in Vancouver.
- s.13

**From:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Kilpatrick, Melanie GCPE:EX](#); [Banfield, Elena GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Jubilee Rooms - Event Photography  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 2:01:32 PM

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Just adding that digital has asked for a "People of New York" style picture/story with Raincity

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**From:** Kilpatrick, Melanie GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 1:59 PM  
**To:** Banfield, Elena GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Jubilee Rooms - Event Photography

Ok thanks for the heads up. And I will be there early, am getting on an early flight so will be downtown by 10am.

We can chat more tomorrow, what time will you be on site?

Melanie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 19, 2018, at 1:54 PM, Banfield, Elena GCPE:EX <[Elena.Banfield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Elena.Banfield@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Melanie,

Thanks for your note. Glad to hear you can be there to take photos. It will be a pretty straightforward podium announcement. We have confirmed that we can do a tour of two renovated rooms after the event, which will provide a few more photo opportunities, but wanted to note that they spaces are really small and so you may have to do some creative manoeuvring to get shots of the Minister on the tour. I would suggest going ahead of the tour to try to get shots of them coming down the hallways, and entering the rooms. We can discuss further on site tomorrow. What time are you planning to arrive?

Best,  
Elena

**Elena Banfield** | Event Coordinator  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Mobile: 604-842-0984 | [elena.banfield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:elena.banfield@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Kilpatrick, Melanie GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 1:23 PM  
**To:** Banfield, Elena GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX; Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Jubilee Rooms - Event Photography

Hi Elena,

I'm just dropping you a note to let you know I am coming over for the Jubilee Rooms event tomorrow to do event photography.

I will be connecting with Herman Thind to coordinate the video and photography for the event for GCPE.

Please let me know if there's anything you'd like to relay about the event or anything you need from me in advance.

Cheers,

**Melanie Kilpatrick** | Public Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
P: 778-698-9176 | C: **s.17**  
[Melanie.Kilpatrick@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melanie.Kilpatrick@gov.bc.ca)

**From:** [Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Request: Vancouver Courier: BC Housing Purchase of Jubilee Rooms  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 10:03:25 AM

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Can you draft some high level lines here around the purchase? Will need to work with BCH on this.

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**From:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 10:02 AM  
**To:** Mukasa, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Media Request: Vancouver Courier: BC Housing Purchase of Jubilee Rooms

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**From:** Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 9:41 AM  
**To:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Media Request: Vancouver Courier: BC Housing Purchase of Jubilee Rooms

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**Reporter**      Mike Howell, Reporter  
Vancouver Courier  
[mhowell@vancourier.com](mailto:mhowell@vancourier.com)  
604-630-3545 c: 778-994-7096

**Deadline**      **June 19 ASAP**

**Request**

Reporter has learned the provincial government (BC Housing) has purchased the Jubilee Rooms at 235/237 Main St. The previous owner confirmed this when he called him yesterday. There might be a newser this week, possibly tomorrow? What can you tell me about this purchase?

**Suggested Response**



SPEAKING POINTS FOR  
**Hon. Selina Robison**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

***Better Housing for People in the Downtown Eastside***

Wednesday, June 20, 2018  
12:30 pm  
*(Arrival time is 12:15 pm for the pre-brief)*

235 Main Street  
Vancouver

Please check against delivery

Event contact on site:  
Elena Banfield, GCPE Events  
604 842-0984

Shruti Joshi, GCPE Media Relations  
778 587-4521

**Event:** Better Housing for People in the Downtown East Side

**Time:** Event runs from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
Minister speaks at 12:35 p.m.  
Arrival time: 12:15 p.m.

**Length of speech:** Two minutes

**Location:** Jubilee Rooms

**Parking:** On-Street, reserved parking by City of Vancouver expected.

**Contact:** Elena Banfield, GCPE Events, 604 842-0984

**Logistics:** Indoors, podium-riser requested.

**Dress Code:** Business casual

**Event summary:**

- This event will serve as a joint media availability for the Province and the City of Vancouver to inform the public of plans to move tenants from the Regent Hotel into safe and supportive housing, including at the Jubilee Rooms, which BC Housing has recently purchased.
- Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson will announce that BC Housing has purchased two buildings, the Jubilee Rooms, in the Downtown Eastside to house residents from the Regent Hotel.
- City of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson will announce that the City has closed the Regent Hotel building, deeming it unfit for occupancy.
- Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will offer supporting remarks and speak to government's work to reduce poverty.
- This information will be provided to media through a joint news release following the City posting its order to close the Regent at 10 a.m.

**Background:**

- BC Housing has purchased two properties (the Jubilee Rooms) for a combined \$12.5 million in the Downtown East Side with approximately 80 units to provide housing for the tenants of the Regent Hotel.
- A total capital budget of \$14.8 million has been granted final project approval for the acquisition and capital improvements of the project. The building is ready for occupancy and staff from the City of Vancouver, BC Housing
- RainCity Housing will operate the building due to their experience and capacity to operate this project as soon as possible.
- The Regent Hotel, owned by the Sahota family, has been closed by the City of Vancouver. The future of the building has not yet been decided.

**Key participants:**

- Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Spencer Chanda-Herbert, chair, Rental Housing Task Force (EMCEE)
- Gregor Robertson, Mayor, City of Vancouver
- Catherine Hume, Co-executive director, RainCity Housing

**Audience:**

- Media
- Housing advocates
- 25-30 event guests
- VIPs include Vancouver City Council, local housing advocates and service providers

**Key Messages:**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Our government is taking action by purchasing two buildings on Main Street to provide better housing for people who need it.
- Residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.



## Agenda

Time	Event Itinerary
<b>Event Summary:</b>	Media availability for Minister Robinson, Minister Simpson and Mayor Robertson to inform the public about plans to move tenants out of the Regent Hotel and into supportive housing.  Indoor event in the vacant commercial space in the Jubilee Rooms. Podium art: Safe, Supportive and Affordable Housing Following announcement, speakers and media will visit two completed suites.
<b>Key contacts</b>	GCPE Event Coordinator: Elena Banfield, 604-842-0984 Media Relations: Shruti Joshi, 778 587-4521 Photographer/videographer: Melanie Kilpatrick, s. 17 BC Housing: Samantha Cacnic, s. 17
10:15 a.m.	Joint news release issued announcing City's closure of the Regent and Province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms
10:30 a.m.	Elena Banfield, Samantha Cacnio and AV crew on site for set up.
12:00 p.m.	Guests, media and speakers begin to arrive.
12:15 p.m.	Pre-brief with speakers, led by Elena Banfield Location: TBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Selina Robinson</b>, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing</li> <li>• <b>Shane Simpson</b>, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• <b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b>, MLA for Vancouver-West End (MC)</li> <li>• <b>Gregor Robertson</b>, Mayor of Vancouver</li> <li>• <b>Catherine Hume</b>, co-executive director, Raincity Housing</li> </ul>
12:25 p.m.	Speakers escorted to event area, positioned at podium by Elena Banfield.
12:30 p.m.	Event begins – <b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> welcomes guests, gives opening remarks and invites <b>Mayor Robertson</b> to the podium
12:32 p.m.	<b>Mayor Robertson</b> announces the City of Vancouver's actions with the Regent Hotel, and invites <b>Minister Robinson</b> to announce the Province's plans for tenants of the Regent.
12:34 p.m.	<b>Minister Robinson</b> announces Province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms.
12:37 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> thanks Minister Selina Robinson, and introduces <b>Minister Simpson</b> .
12:39 p.m.	<b>Minister Simpson</b> delivers remarks.
12:41 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> thanks Minister Simpson, invites <b>Catherine Hume</b> to the podium.
12:43 p.m.	<b>Catherine Hume</b> delivers remarks.
12:45 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> thanks Catherine Hume, delivers concluding remarks and delivers closing remarks, and invites speakers for a group photograph.
12:47 p.m.	<b>Group photo.</b>
12:50 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> returns to podium and invites questions from media.
12:51 p.m.	<b>Media Q&amp;A</b> – moderated by GCPE Media Relations
1:00 p.m.	Media Q&A concludes. Speakers and media depart for tour of completed suites
1:15 p.m.	<b>Event concludes.</b>

## INTRODUCTION

- Good afternoon everyone.
- Thank you, Gregor, for that introduction, and for all the good work the City is doing to help the most vulnerable people in Vancouver.
- It is an honour to be here on the territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Watututh [slay-wah-tooth] First Nations.

s.13



- The closure of the Regent follows years of health and safety violations that were not acted upon by the owners.
- That is why we are here today, to give people a fresh start.

s.13



- For years, tenants were forced to live in unsafe, unhealthy and unacceptable conditions – conditions that no one should **ever** have to experience.

- I am horrified and outraged by the images I have seen and the stories I've heard about the living conditions, and I know you are too.
- It is simply unacceptable, and our government will not stand by while people suffer.
- So today, we are making another move in helping people who have been left on their own to struggle for too long.

\*\*\*\*\*

s.13



- BC Housing will be working with our partners to move people from the Regent into their new accommodation, where they will be treated with dignity, and respect.

s.13



- This is a drastic improvement to how people were living at the Regent<sup>s.13</sup>

s.13

\*\*\*\*

- I know RainCity Housing, who will be operating this building, has an outstanding track record of providing supports to people who need it and I know they will do amazing work for the people moving here.

s.13

●

●

- Now, the remaining residents have that same opportunity.

\*\*\*\*\*

- What I've announced today is a good step forward towards our goal of providing homes for the people who need it most, but we know there is more to do.

- The funding for this new housing is part of the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund that we launched in February as part of our 10-year housing plan.
- These badly needed units are among the 2,500 additional supportive homes with 24/7 supports that our government will be building to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

● s.13

## CONCLUSION

- In closing, I want to thank all partners here today for helping make this transition for Regent Hotel residents possible.
- I know it is a lot of work, but I also know this is going to make a tremendous difference in the lives of the people who will call Jubilee home.
- Thank you.

-END-



SPEAKING POINTS FOR  
**Hon. Selina Robinson**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

***Better Housing for People in the Downtown Eastside***

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Time

235 Main Street (TBC)  
Vancouver

Please check against delivery

Event contact on site:

Name, title

Cell number

**Event:** Better Housing for People in the Downtown East Side

**Time:** Event runs from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
Minister speaks at 12:35 p.m.  
Arrival time: 12:15 p.m.

**Length of speech:** Three minutes

**Location:** Jubilee Rooms (exact location in the building is TBC)

**Parking:** On-Street.

**Contact:** GCPE Events (Co-ordinator TBC)

**Logistics:** (eg. podium, stage, microphone, set-up) *\*request podium riser*

**Dress Code:** Business casual

**Event summary:**

- Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson will announce that BC Housing has purchased two buildings in the Downtown East Side to house 80 residents who were formerly living in the Regent Hotel.
- City of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson will announce that the City has closed the Regent Hotel building, deeming it unfit for occupancy.
- Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will offer supporting remarks and speak to government's work to reduce poverty.

**Background:**

- BC Housing has purchased two properties (the Jubilee Rooms) for a combined \$12.5 million in the Downtown East Side with approximately 80 units to provide housing for the tenants of the Regent Hotel.
- A total capital budget of \$14.8 million has been granted final project approval for the acquisition and capital improvements of the project. The building is expected to be ready for occupancy by June 18th.
- RainCity Housing has been identified as the preferred operator for the building due to their experience and capacity to operate this project as soon as possible.
- The Regent Hotel, owned by the Sahota family, has been closed by the City of Vancouver. The future of the building has not yet been decided.

**Key participants:**

- s.13
- Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Gregor Robertson, mayor, City of Vancouver

**Audience:**

- Media
- Housing Advocates
- 25-30 people.

- VIPs include XX

**Key Messages:**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Our government is taking action by purchasing 78 units of housing in the Jubilee Rooms on Main Street.
- s.13
  
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.



## Agenda (DRAFT)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event Itinerary</b>
12:15 p.m.	<b>Speakers arrive</b> at event location and meet with GCPE Event Co-ordinator for pre-brief
12:30 p.m.	s.13 _____ welcomes everyone, provides opening remarks, and introduces Mayor Gregor Robertson.
12:32 p.m.	<b>Mayor Gregor Robertson</b> announces the City of Vancouver's actions with the Regent Hotel, and invites Minister Selina Robinson to announce the Province's plans for tenants of the Regent.
12:35 p.m.	<b>Minister Selina Robinson</b> announces Province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms.
12:38 p.m.	s.13 _____ thanks Minister Selina Robinson, and introduces Minister Shane Simpson.
12:39 p.m.	<b>Minister Shane Simpson</b> provides supportive remarks and speaks about government's plan to reduce poverty.
12:42 p.m.	s.13 _____ thanks Minister Shane Simpson and introduces Catherine Hume or s.13 _____ co-executive director, RainCity Housing.
12:43 p.m.	<b>Rain City Housing Rep</b> speaks as validator to the announcement.
12:46 p.m.	s.13 _____ thanks everyone, delivers closing remarks, and invites speakers for a group photograph.
12:48 p.m.	Group Photograph
12:51 p.m.	s.13 _____
12:52 p.m.	Media Q&A, Moderated by XXXX
1:00 p.m.	Event complete.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

**Shane Simpson**

**Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction**

**Better Housing for People in the Downtown  
Eastside**

Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 p.m.

(Arrival time is 12:15 p.m.)

Speaking time 2 minutes

235 Main Street  
Vancouver

Event contact on site:  
Elena Banfield, GCPE Events  
604 842-0984

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**Event:** Better Housing for People in the Downtown East Side

**Time:** Event runs from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
Minister speaks at 12:39 p.m.  
Arrival time: 12:15 p.m.

**Length of speech:** Three to four minutes

**Location:** Jubilee Rooms

**Parking:** On-Street

**Contact:** Elena Banfield, GCPE Events, 604 842-0984

**Logistics:** Indoors, podium-riser requested.

**Dress Code:** Business casual

**Event summary:**

- The Province and the City of Vancouver will hold joint media availability to inform media about plans to move tenants at the Regent Hotel into safe and supportive housing, including at the Jubilee Rooms, which were recently purchased by BC Housing.
- Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson will speak about the City's action to close the Regent Hotel.
- Minister Selina Robinson will speak about the Province's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms.
- Minister Shane Simpson will speak about government's work to reduce poverty.
- The Province (through BC Housing) has purchased two buildings in the Downtown East Side to house 80 residents from the Regent Hotel.
- The City of Vancouver will also announce it has closed the Regent Hotel (unfit for occupancy)

**Background:**

- BC Housing has purchased two properties (the Jubilee Rooms) for a combined \$12.5 million in the Downtown East Side with approximately 80 units to provide housing for the tenants of the Regent Hotel.
- A total capital budget of \$14.8 million has been granted final project approval for the acquisition and capital improvements of the project.
- s.13
  
- The Regent Hotel, owned by the Sahota family, has been closed by the City of Vancouver. The future of the building has not yet been decided.
- Event location: 235 Main Street, Vancouver
- RainCity Housing will operate the Jubilee Rooms.

**Key participants:**

- Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Spencer Chanda-Herbert, chair, Rental Housing Task Force (EMCEE)
- Gregor Robertson, Mayor, City of Vancouver
- Catherine Hume, Co-Executive Director, Raincity Housing

**Audience:**

- Media
- Housing Advocates
- 25-30 people.
- VIPs include Vancouver City Council, local housing advocates and service providers

**Key Messages:**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Our government is taking action by purchasing two buildings on Main Street to provide better housing for people who need it.
- Residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.
- Government is also taking action with poverty reduction by developing a Homelessness Action Plan.
- We are also developing B.C.'s first Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- We know that people are desperate for safe, affordable housing and that action needs to be taken now and today's announcement is a step in the right direction.

## Agenda (DRAFT)

Time	Event Itinerary
<b>Event Summary:</b>	Media availability for Minister Robinson, Minister Simpson and Mayor Robertson to inform the public about plans to move tenants out of the Regent Hotel and into supportive housing. Indoor event in the vacant commercial space in the Jubilee Rooms. Podium art: Safe, Supportive and Affordable Housing. Following announcement, speakers and media will visit suite under construction (TBC).
<b>Key contacts</b>	GCPE Event Coordinator: Elena Banfield, 604-842-0984 Media Relations: Shruti Joshi, 778 587-4521 Photographer/videographer: Melanie Kilpatrick, s.17 BC Housing: Samantha Cacnio s.17
10:30 a.m.	Elena Banfield, Samantha Cacnio and AV crew on site for set up.
12:00 p.m.	Guests, media and speakers begin to arrive.
12:15 p.m.	Pre-brief with speakers, led by Elena Banfield Location: TBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Selina Robinson</b>, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing</li> <li>• <b>Shane Simpson</b>, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• <b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b>, MLA for Vancouver-West End (MC)</li> <li>• <b>Gregor Robertson</b>, Mayor of Vancouver</li> <li>• <b>Catherine Hume</b>, co-executive director, Raincity Housing</li> </ul>
12:25 p.m.	Speakers escorted to event area, positioned at podium by Elena Banfield.
12:30 p.m.	Event begins – <b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> welcomes guests, gives opening remarks and invites <b>Mayor Robertson</b> to the podium
12:32 p.m.	<b>Mayor Robertson</b> announces the City of Vancouver’s actions with the Regent Hotel, and invites <b>Minister Robinson</b> to announce the Province’s plans for tenants of the Regent.
12:34 p.m.	<b>Minister Robinson</b> announces Province’s purchase of the Jubilee Rooms.
12:37 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> thanks Minister Selina Robinson, and introduces <b>Minister Simpson</b> .
12:39 p.m.	<b>Minister Simpson</b> delivers remarks.
12:41 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> thanks Minister Simpson, invites <b>Catherine Hume</b> to the podium.
12:43 p.m.	<b>Catherine Hume</b> delivers remarks.
12:45 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> thanks Catherine Hume, delivers concluding remarks and delivers closing remarks, and invites speakers for a group photograph.
12:47 p.m.	<b>Group photo.</b>
12:50 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Hebert</b> returns to podium and invites questions from media.
12:51 p.m.	<b>Media Q&amp;A</b> – moderated by GCPE Media Relations
1:00 p.m.	Media Q&A concludes. Speakers and media depart for tour of rooms under construction (TBC).
1:15 p.m.	<b>Event concludes.</b>

## Introduction

- Thank-you, Spencer.
- Good afternoon, everyone.
- I would like to acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-waututh [sail-wha-tooth] First Nations.
- This is a great announcement to be a part of today...the purchase and renovation of the Jubilee Rooms.
- The conditions at the Regent were unacceptable.

- And today tenants know they won't have to endure those conditions anymore.

## **Poverty Reduction Strategy**

- Our government is working to support people in a number of ways.
- We have an historic investment in affordable housing and the promise of safe, affordable homes for more than 114,000 people in our province.
- Minister Robinson and I are working on a Homelessness Action Plan.



- And work is underway on B.C.'s first Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- We just wrapped up a comprehensive public consultation.
- We heard from thousands of people.
- More than half were people with lived experience.
- They shared their stories and their ideas on what we can do to reduce poverty in our province.
- We heard from many people here in the DTES.
- And in many ways, their concerns were the same as people elsewhere in the province.

- In particular, the need for safe, affordable housing that we see in communities from Victoria to Fort St. John.
- Housing costs are one of the biggest drivers of poverty in our province.
- Getting people out of poverty starts with a safe place to live.
- And this announcement is a big step in the right direction.
- In the next week or so, we will release a full report on what we heard during the consultation.

- And in the fall, we will introduce legislation including targets and timelines – the poverty reduction strategy will follow.

## **Closing**

- After so many years of chronic underfunding, we are making investments that support British Columbians.
- Today's announcement is one of many that we will be making over the next few months that will make a difference for people.
- Thank-you.

**END**



EMCEE SPEAKING POINTS FOR  
**Spencer Chanda Herbert**  
MLA for Vancouver-West End

***Better Housing for People in the Downtown Eastside***

Wednesday, June 20, 2018  
12:30 pm  
*(Arrival time is 12:15 pm for the pre-brief)*

235 Main Street  
Vancouver

Please check against delivery

Event contact on site:  
Elena Banfield, GCPE Events  
604 842-0984

Shruti Joshi, GCPE Media Relations  
778 587-4521

**Event:** Better Housing for People in the Downtown East Side

**Time:** Event runs from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
Minister speaks at 12:35 p.m.  
Arrival time: 12:15 p.m.

**Length of speech:** Two minutes

**Location:** Jubilee Rooms

**Parking:** On-Street (BCH working to reserve parking, TBC).

**Contact:** Elena Banfield, GCPE Events, 604 842-0984

**Logistics:** Indoors, podium-riser requested.

**Dress Code:** Business casual

**Event summary:**

- This event will serve as a joint media availability for the Province and the City of Vancouver to inform the public of plans to move tenants from the Regent Hotel into safe and supportive housing, including at the Jubilee Rooms, which BC Housing has recently purchased.
- Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson will announce that BC Housing has purchased two buildings, the Jubilee Rooms, in the Downtown Eastside to house residents from the Regent Hotel.
- City of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson will announce that the City has closed the Regent Hotel building, deeming it unfit for occupancy.
- Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will offer supporting remarks and speak to government's work to reduce poverty.
- This information will be provided to media through a joint news release following the City posting its order to close the Regent at 10 a.m.

**Background:**

- BC Housing has purchased two properties (the Jubilee Rooms) for a combined \$12.5 million in the Downtown East Side with approximately 80 units to provide housing for the tenants of the Regent Hotel.
- A total capital budget of \$14.8 million has been granted final project approval for the acquisition and capital improvements of the project. The building is ready for occupancy and staff from the City of Vancouver, BC Housing
- RainCity Housing will operate the building due to their experience and capacity to operate this project as soon as possible.
- The Regent Hotel, owned by the Sahota family, has been closed by the City of Vancouver. The future of the building has not yet been decided.

**Key participants:**

- Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Spencer Chanda-Herbert, chair, Rental Housing Task Force (EMCEE)
- Gregor Robertson, Mayor, City of Vancouver
- Catherine Hume, Co-executive director, RainCity Housing

**Audience:**

- Media
- Housing advocates
- 25-30 event guests
- VIPs include Vancouver City Council, local housing advocates and service providers

**Key Messages:**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Our government is taking action by purchasing two buildings on Main Street to provide better housing for people who need it.
- Residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
- This means people who desperately need homes will be able to live in a warm, supportive environment so that they can focus on other areas of their lives.

## Agenda

Time	Event Itinerary
<b>Event Summary:</b>	Media availability for Minister Robinson, Minister Simpson and Mayor Robertson to inform the public about plans to move tenants out of the Regent Hotel and into supportive housing.  Indoor event in the vacant commercial space in the Jubilee Rooms. Podium art: Safe, Supportive and Affordable Housing Following announcement, speakers and media will visit suite under construction (TBC).
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12:45 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Herbert</b> thanks Catherine Hume, delivers concluding remarks and delivers closing remarks, and invites speakers for a group photograph.
12:47 p.m.	<b>Group photo.</b>
12:50 p.m.	<b>Spencer Chandra Hebert</b> returns to podium and invites questions from media.
12:51 p.m.	<b>Media Q&amp;A</b> – moderated by GCPE Media Relations
1:00 p.m.	Media Q&A concludes. Speakers and media depart for tour of rooms under construction (TBC).
1:15 p.m.	<b>Event concludes.</b>

## INTRODUCTION

- Good afternoon everyone, and thank you for being here.
- My name is Spencer Chandra Herbert – MLA for Vancouver-West End and the Chair of our Province’s Rental Housing Task Force.
- I’m pleased to be your emcee for today’s proceedings on the territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Watututh [*slay-wah-tooth*] First Nations.
- I would like to begin by introducing our speakers today:
  - Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver;
  - Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
  - Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction;
  - and Catherine Hume, co-executive director of RainCity Housing.



- I also bring greetings from Melanie Mark, MLA for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant, who was unable to join us today.
- In my role as Chair of the Rental Housing Task Force, a big part of my focus is on making sure renters have the security they need without the fear of losing their homes or being forced to live in sub-standard conditions in this tight rental market.
- So I am pleased that the Province is partnering with the city to make an important announcement for renters living on the Downtown Eastside.
- Please join me in welcoming Mayor Gregor Robertson to share more details on today's announcement.

## ***MAYOR ROBERTSON SPEAKS***

## ***MAYOR ROBERTSON INTRODUCES MINISTER ROBINSON***

- Thank you, Minister Robinson and Mayor Robertson.
- It's partnerships like these that make a real difference in the lives of people and these actions will begin to re-build a broken rental market.

- Now, to tell you more about our government's work to make life better for people here on the Downtown Eastside, and in communities across B.C., please welcome Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

## **MINISTER SIMPSON SPEAKS**

- Thank you Minister Simpson, for the important work you and your ministry are doing to improve the lives of British Columbians.
- Now, please welcome to the podium Catherine Hume, Co-executive director of RainCity Housing.

## **CATHERINE HUME SPEAKS**

- Thank you, Catherine.
- Your organization has done great work for people in Vancouver, and I'm confident that work will continue for the people living at the Jubilee Rooms.

## **CONCLUSION**

- I want to thank you all for joining us today.
- Our government is focused on making sure people are able to find homes they can afford.

- We will continue working to bring fairness to our housing market by listening to, and working with, landlords, tenants, service providers and local governments.
- Now, I would like to invite all of our speakers back to the podium for a photo, and afterward Minister Robinson, Minister Simpson and Mayor Robertson will be happy to take any questions from the podium.
- Thank you.

**-END-**



SPEAKING POINTS FOR  
**Hon. Selina Robison**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

***Better Housing for People in the Downtown Eastside***

Wednesday, June 20, 2018  
12:30 pm  
*(Arrival time is 12:15 pm for the pre-brief)*

235 Main Street  
Vancouver

Please check against delivery

Event contact on site:  
Elena Banfield, GCPE Events  
604 842-0984

Shruti Joshi, GCPE Media Relations  
778 587-4521

**Event:** Better Housing for People in the Downtown East Side

**Time:** Event runs from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
Minister speaks at 12:35 p.m.  
Arrival time: 12:15 p.m.

**Length of speech:** Two minutes

**Location:** Jubilee Rooms

**Parking:** On-Street (BCH working to reserve parking, TBC).

**Contact:** Elena Banfield, GCPE Events, 604 842-0984

**Logistics:** Indoors, podium-riser requested.

**Dress Code:** Business casual

**Event summary:**

- This event will serve as a joint media availability for the Province and the City of Vancouver to inform the public of plans to move tenants from the Regent Hotel into safe and supportive housing, including at the Jubilee Rooms, which BC Housing has recently purchased.
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**Background:**

- BC Housing has purchased two properties (the Jubilee Rooms) for a combined \$12.5 million in the Downtown East Side with approximately 80 units to provide housing for the tenants of the Regent Hotel.
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**Key participants:**

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- Spencer Chanda-Herbert, chair, Rental Housing Task Force (EMCEE)

- Gregor Robertson, Mayor, City of Vancouver
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**Audience:**

- Media
- Housing advocates
- 25-30 event guests
- VIPs include Vancouver City Council, local housing advocates and service providers

**Key Messages:**

- The way people were treated at the Regent Hotel is a serious issue for our government.
- The unsafe and unhealthy living conditions and the number of violations are horrifying – nobody should be forced to live in a situation like that.
- Our government is taking action by purchasing two buildings on Main Street to provide better housing for people who need it.
- Residents will have safe, secure, clean rooms; a meal program, and access to support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- We are working with our partners to give the people living at the Regent a safe and healthy living environment.
- We also recognize the need for more housing to help people with low incomes who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Budget 2018 offers new funding for 2,500 supportive homes that will help people in need, including those living in the Downtown Eastside.
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1:15 p.m.	<b>Event concludes.</b>

## INTRODUCTION

- Good afternoon, everyone.
- Thank you, Gregor, for that introduction, and for all the good work the City is doing to help the most vulnerable people in Vancouver.
- It is an honour to be here on the territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Watututh [slay-wah-tooth] First Nations.
- Today's announcement is good news for people who have been living in extremely unsafe conditions at the Regent Hotel.
- The closure of the Regent follows years of health and safety violations that were not acted upon by the owners.



- That is why we are here today, in a building where we will work with our partners to give people a fresh start.
- We're making a concerted and caring effort to help make life better for the people who were living at the Regent Hotel.
- For years, tenants were forced to live in unsafe, unhealthy and unacceptable conditions – conditions that no one should **ever** have to experience.
- I am horrified and outraged by the images I have seen and the stories I've heard about the living conditions, and I know you are too.
- It is simply unacceptable, and our government will not stand by while people suffer.
- So today, we are making another move in helping people who have been left on their own to struggle for too long.

\*\*\*\*\*

- With BC Housing's purchase of the Jubilee Rooms, people living at the Regent now have a safe and supportive place to call home.
- BC Housing will be working with our partners to move people from the Regent into their new accommodations, where they will be treated with dignity, and respect.
- In their new home, they will have access to clean water, working utilities, washrooms, support services, and in some cases, meal service.
- This is a drastic improvement to how people were living at the Regent.

\*\*\*\*

- I know RainCity Housing, who will be operating this building, has an outstanding track record of providing supports to people who need it and I know they will do amazing work for the people moving here.

- I also want to thank Atira Women’s Resource Society for their work in managing the Regent over the past few months – it was a near impossible situation for them, but they came through under extremely difficult circumstances.
- Since taking on the operations role, they have helped move approximately 50 people into safe, supportive housing.
- Now, the remaining residents have that same opportunity.

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- What I’ve announced today is an important step forward towards our goal of providing homes for the people who need it most, but we know there is more to do.
- The funding for this new housing is part of the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund that we launched in February as part of our 10-year housing plan.

- These badly needed units are among the 2,500 additional supportive homes with 24/7 supports that our government will be building to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Those 2,500 units are in addition to the 2,000 units of modular housing that we are building in coordination with local governments throughout British Columbia.

## CONCLUSION

- In closing, I want to thank all partners here today for helping make this transition for Regent Hotel residents possible.
- I know this is going to make a tremendous difference in the lives of the people who will call Jubilee home.
- Thank you.

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