

## FW: Ministry of Housing Media Report - Wed March 8

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From : Will, Meghan OHCS:EX <Meghan.Will@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hope, Melanie OHCS:EX <Melanie.Hope@gov.bc.ca>, Miller, Jennifer E HOUS:EX <Jennifer.E.Miller@gov.bc.ca>, Gurney, Taro OHCS:EX <Taro.Gurney@gov.bc.ca>, Foreman, Annik OHCS:EX <Annik.Foreman@gov.bc.ca>, Lush, Jenny SDPR:EX <Jenny.Lush@gov.bc.ca>, Petrescu, Sarah OHCS:EX <Sarah.Petrescu@gov.bc.ca>, Lush, Jenny HOUS:EX <Jenny.Lush@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 9, 2023 7:43:19 AM PST  
FYI

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**From:** Paterson, Travis GCPE:EX <Travis.Paterson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023 4:55 PM  
**To:** GCPE Housing Daily Media Summary <HODAMESU@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Ministry of Housing Media Report - Wed March 8

### News release

Province supports Chilliwack Riverside cleanup - <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HOUS0015-000290>

### Minister interviews scheduled for tomorrow:

None

### Underway

Abigail Turner - CTV  
ISSUE: BCH: Portland Hotel elevator  
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Penny Daflos - CTV News (BC)  
ISSUE: BCH: Riverview  
STATUS: With Program Area

### Complete

Monika Gul - CityNews - Vancouver  
ISSUE: PiT counts  
STATUS: Provided Background

- Through provincial investments since 2017, nearly 1,440 supportive housing units have been completed for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Vancouver. Development on approximately 800 additional supportive housing units is also currently underway.

This year's province-wide Point-in-Time Homeless count is taking place between March and May 2023 in 20 communities across British Columbia. The Metro Vancouver Point-in-Time Homeless count is under way March 7 and 8.

Data from the provincially funded counts will be combined with 9 other counts that are funded by the federal government and independent sources, to produce a provincial summary comprising 29 communities. A report will be released in the fall.

Point-in-Time counts give us a 24-hour snapshot of homelessness in specific municipalities and

relies on enumeration and survey methods.

The counts largely capture visible homelessness, as not all people experiencing homelessness will be encountered during the point-in-time.

We know we need to do more, and, with this data-driven approach, we can deliver better services that will best help people in need in different communities, so more people have a safe place to call home.

Dates for BC Homeless Counts 2023 can be found here: 2023 Homeless Counts - HSABC ([hsa-bc.ca](https://hsa-bc.ca)). The 2020/21 Report on Homeless Counts in BC can be found on BC Housing's Website: <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>.

During the Point in Time counts, those who are sheltering outside can call 211 to register as part of the count.

Ian Holmes - IslandRadio/NanaimoNewsNOW.com

ISSUE: Point in Time homeless count

STATUS: Provided Background

- This year's province-wide Point-in-Time Homeless count is taking place between March and May 2023 in 20 communities across British Columbia.

Parksville/Qualicum is on April 26. Nanaimo is on April 12. I have reached out to HSABC for a contact regarding Parksville/Qualicum and will share ASAP. For Nanaimo, please visit <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/communities-communautes/bc-eng.html>

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Wildinette Paul - CBC - Radio Canada (French Services)

ISSUE: Point in Time counts

STATUS: Provided Background

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Jen St. Denis - CTV - Vancouver  
ISSUE: 301 E. Hastings St.  
STATUS: Referred to Third Party

- Referred to VCH

## FW: Ministry of Housing Media Report - Thursday, Mar. 9, 2023

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From: Will, Meghan OHCS:EX <Meghan.Will@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Hope, Melanie OHCS:EX <Melanie.Hope@gov.bc.ca>, Foreman, Annik OHCS:EX <Annik.Foreman@gov.bc.ca>, Miller, Jennifer E HOUS:EX <Jennifer.E.Miller@gov.bc.ca>, Gurney, Taro OHCS:EX <Taro.Gurney@gov.bc.ca>, Petrescu, Sarah OHCS:EX <Sarah.Petrescu@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 10, 2023 8:13:16 AM PST  
FYI

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 9, 2023 7:04 PM  
**To:** GCPE Housing Daily Media Summary <HODAMESU@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Ministry of Housing Media Report - Thursday, Mar. 9, 2023

**Minister interviews scheduled for tomorrow:**  
None

**Underway:**

Mike Howell - Glacier FarmMedia Network  
ISSUE: BCH: Detox/housing complex  
STATUS: With GCPE

Penny Daflos - CTV News (BC)  
ISSUE: BCH: Riverview  
STATUS: With Minister's Office

**Completed:**

Drew Wilson - EZ Rock (Kootenays)  
ISSUE: BCH: Shelters in Trail, Castlegar, Grand Forks  
STATUS: Provided Background

- BCH provided background:

The 13-bed shelter at 1660 Columbia Ave. in Castlegar will be closing after March 31, 2023. Castlegar District Community Services Society and BC Housing do not take this decision lightly and we recognize that this will have an impact on the community as there is no other shelter in Castlegar at this time. The shelter was always meant to be temporary and is closing because the building and location are not suitable or safe for long-term use.

We are working with shelter guests to provide resources and information to access services from other community partners. The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction has community integration specialists in the community as an additional resource for people experiencing homelessness.

BC Housing never wants to see anyone left without a safe and secure place to stay, which is why we are working with the City of Castlegar and our non-profit partners to find a location for a year-round shelter. We will update the community once more information is available to share.

We also realize that shelters are not a long-term solution to homelessness, which is why we are working in partnership to deliver new affordable homes for a range of people in need in

communities throughout the province. Through provincial investments since 2017, there are more than 40,000 homes open or underway in B.C., including 80 homes in the West Kootenay region.

April Lawrence - CHEK TV - Victoria  
ISSUE: BCH: Tiny Town Victoria  
STATUS: Provided Background

- BCH provided background:

BC Housing, Our Place Society, and the Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region (formerly the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness) requested the City of Victoria to extend the operating licence for Tiny Home Village to September 30, 2023. The request for an extension will be discussed tonight at City Council.

Since May 2021, this Tiny Homes Village has offered safe and warm conditions to our community's most vulnerable people while BC Housing builds permanent supportive homes in the region. While many building projects are nearing completion, industry-wide construction delays have caused need for this extension. Homes with supports, like Tiny Home Village, remain essential in supporting people at-risk of, or experiencing homelessness in Victoria.

Together, BC Housing and our partners are committed to ensuring Tiny Home Village's residents are positively integrated into their community. We will be reaching out to the City of Victoria after tonight's council meeting to discuss how we can move forward together.

Alec Lazenby - BC Today  
ISSUE: Women's Transition Shelters  
STATUS: Provided Background

- Since 2017, the Province has funded more than 900 homes, including 188 completed homes, for women and children leaving violence.
- Of the 715 units that are under construction or in development, 181 are scheduled to open by the end of June, and in total 324 additional homes are expected to open by the end of 2023 in cities and towns throughout B.C.
- A list of all projects – open and underway - can be found in the attached document. Please note that the Ann Davis Women's Centre in Chilliwack opened in October 2018, while the 20 transition spaces in Langford were incorporated into a larger 50 unit project in the Westshore, announced in November 2022.

Cindy Harnett - Times Colonist  
ISSUE: Women's housing interview  
STATUS: Provided Background + list of projects

- • Through the Building BC: Women's Transition Housing Fund, the Province is investing \$734 million over 10 years to build and operate 1,500 new transition housing, second-stage housing, and long-term affordable housing spaces for women and children.
- Since 2017, the Province has funded more than 900 homes, including 188 completed homes, for women and children leaving violence.
- Of the 715 units that are under construction or in development, 181 are scheduled to open by the end of June, and in total 324 additional homes are expected to open by the end of 2023 in cities and towns throughout B.C.
- A list of all projects – open and underway - can be found in the attached document.

Frances Bula - Globe and Mail  
ISSUE: Women's Transition Housing  
STATUS: Provided Background

- Provided chart of transition housing projects.
- More women and children will have an affordable, safe and secure place to go, as 150 homes are either opening or starting construction in four different locations throughout the province – the announcement was highlighting projects that are hitting a milestone soon.
- These developments build on our government's commitment to help vulnerable women and children by building safer, more supportive communities, free of abuse and violence.
- In 2018, the Province made the first significant investment in housing for women and children fleeing violence in over two decades.
- Through the Building BC: Women's Transition Housing Fund, the Province is investing \$734 million over 10 years to build and operate 1,500 new transition housing, second-stage housing, and long-term affordable housing spaces for women and children.
- The Province has already funded nearly 900 homes that are complete or underway for women and children leaving violence, including 188 completed homes.
- Of the 715 units that are under construction or in development, 181 are scheduled to open by the end of June, and in total 324 additional homes are expected to open by the end of 2023 in cities and towns throughout B.C.
- A list of all projects – open and underway - can be found in the attached document.

Bhinder Sajan - CTV News (BC); Liza Yuzda - CityNews - Vancouver; Richard Zussman - Global TV | BC  
ISSUE: Follow up to WTFH announcement  
STATUS: Provided Background

- Since 2017, the Province has funded more than 900 homes, including 188 completed homes, for women and children leaving violence. Another 181 are scheduled to open across B.C. by the end of June.

Abigail Turner - CTV  
ISSUE: BCH: Portland Hotel elevator  
STATUS: Provided Background

- Response from BC Housing  
The Portland Hotel elevator system was returned to full service on Feb. 7. BC Housing and PHS are both monitoring the system for any further issues, and will address any that may arise as quickly as possible.

BC Housing works closely with its partners to ensure that any and all building repairs are completed in a timely manner, with as minimal disruption to residents as possible. In the long-term, BC Housing has also elected to fully modernize the elevator beyond its most recent repairs to ensure its longevity well into the future.

BC Housing offered to relocate all tenants with mobility challenges, with most accepting. Some remaining tenants elected not to move, and were therefore not relocated by BC Housing. BC Housing continues to work with PHS closely and remains ready to assist any additional tenants interested in relocating.

Questions involving the tenant protest would be better addressed by PHS, which operates the Portland Hotel.

**Ministry news releases issued today:**

Safe, new homes coming for women, children in B.C.: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HOUS0013-000285>