



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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100 More Homes Penticton releases key milestones in fight against homelessness

Penticton, BC – As part of its commitment to fostering a community where every resident has access to stable, safe, and permanent housing, 100 More Homes Penticton (100MH) is releasing its 2023 Year in Review, highlighting progress made in the ongoing response to the housing crisis and increased homelessness.

A key milestone highlighted in the report is the provision of an Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS) to 267 people during the coldest days of the year. Operating from December until March, the 30-bed Emergency Weather Response (EWR) shelter at 1704 Government Street served as a crucial lifeline, made possible through a collaborative effort between the City of Penticton, BC Housing, and the Penticton and Area Overdose Prevention Society.

Interior Health (IH) services were also available to EWS clients throughout its operating hours. IH reports that many people were treated for wound care, outreach teams utilized the EWS site to connect with hard-to-reach clients and helped ensure health services were consistent. In addition, IH teams used the EWS site to conduct check ins on people who had completed treatment within the IH network.

In April 2023, 100 More Homes Penticton, representing a coalition of over 27 diverse organizations, proactively engaged with the City of Penticton and BC Housing, advocating for early planning to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events on vulnerable populations.

Linda Sankey, Co-Chair of 100 More Homes Penticton, commended the collective effort, stating, “The Emergency Weather Response shelter exemplifies the power of community partnership in addressing complex social challenges.”

The 2023 Point in Time count revealed 166 Penticton residents are experiencing homelessness, underscoring the urgent need for expanded housing services, particularly for the Indigenous community, whose numbers continue to grow disproportionately. The Point in Time count provides a snapshot of people who are living unhoused in a 24-hour period.

The 2023 Year in Review also underscores significant strides in long-term planning to combat chronic homelessness and the creation of formalized data coordination and sharing. Notable achievements include the formation of two outreach partnership teams and amendments to the Official City Plan (OCP), all aimed at enhancing support for the unhoused population.

Despite facing daunting challenges such as soaring housing costs, low rental vacancy rates, and the toxic drug crisis, the resilience and dedication of organizations within the 100MH network have led to innovative solutions and a more cohesive approach to community development.

Tanya Behardien, Co-Chair of 100 More Homes Penticton, emphasized the collaborative spirit driving progress, stating, “By leaning on one another’s strengths, holding space for difficult conversations, understanding the challenges of a complex system and the passion for delivering innovative solutions to the problem, we have experienced the most integrative approach that the Penticton community has seen in recent years.”

Throughout 2023, the 100 More Homes Penticton collective has seen over 13 successful partnerships develop in the Penticton community, bringing total membership to over 27 active organizations, including local non-profit service providers, municipal partners, health authorities, and community champions.

United Way BC is proud to be the backbone organization to the 100 More Homes Penticton collective and is keen to continue this impactful work in creating healthy, caring and inclusive communities.

Download the [100 More Homes Penticton 2023 Year in Review Here.](#)

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Interviews are available with Naomi Woodland, Community Impact & Investment Coordinator, United Way British Columbia.

About 100 More Homes Penticton

Over the last 8 years, 100 More Homes Penticton has transformed from a small informal group that met to discuss housing needs in the community into a formal collective with over 27 diverse organizations representing housing needs for a wide range of people. In 2018, the collective efforts resulted in the construction of over 200 housing units and wrap-around housing support services. It is now working towards creating a community where every resident has safe, accessible, and affordable homes to live in.

To learn more, please visit <https://uwbc.ca/program/100-more-homes-penticton/>.

About United Way British Columbia – working with communities in BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland and Central & Northern Vancouver Island

United Way BC supports healthy, caring and inclusive communities by strengthening vital connections that support people in need. Representing the five regions of Central and Northern Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Southern Interior, Thompson Nicola Cariboo, and Northern BC, our organization serves a population of more than 4 million people, with a focus on emergency response, kids and youth, seniors, poverty, mental health and food security. United Way British Columbia is funded by the City of Penticton to work as the coordinator and backbone organization for the 100 More Homes Penticton collaborative. www.uwbc.ca.

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