



MEDIA RELEASE

April 7, 2025

Penticton Community Invited to Winter Shelter Discussion Forum

Penticton, B.C. – 100 More Homes Penticton invites community members to attend an upcoming neighbourhood forum to learn about Penticton's Temporary Winter Shelter, ask questions, and shape its future.

With an extension of the Temporary Use Permit through March 2026 approved, contingent on a long-term funding arrangement, this forum provides an important opportunity for public input. Join us to share your voice in shaping the future of seasonal and emergency sheltering in our city:

- **Date:** Thursday, April 10
- **Time:** 4:30 - 5:30pm
- **Location:** Penticton Seniors' Drop-In Society (2965 South Main St.)

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from 100 More Homes, who have been coordinating weekly on shelter operations and safety protocols. These representatives will be available to discuss current successes and challenges, as well as plans for the shelter's future. Light refreshments will be provided. There is no fee to attend.

Since launching in Winter 2024, the 100 More Homes Penticton Neighbourhood Forums have provided an open and respectful space for community members to learn more about the Temporary Winter Shelter, located at 441 Dawson Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions, share concerns, and access support related to shelter operations. The shelter has secured a two-month extension of funding through BC Housing while long-term funding arrangements are being made.

Rooted in collaboration and transparency, the forums bring together representatives involved in the coordination of the shelter, including Bylaw Services, RCMP, the shelter operator, City of Penticton staff, the Penticton Industrial Development Association (PIDA), the Penticton Chamber of Commerce, the Fire Department, and local nonprofit partners.

"100 More Homes was born nearly a decade ago with a desire to find collaborative ways to help vulnerable people obtain housing solutions. As the increase in homelessness and those on the verge of being homeless has grown, the need has only become more intense," says Tanya Behardien, Co-Chair, 100 More Homes. "The partnerships between 100 More Homes, BC Housing, the City, Bylaw, the RCMP, Interior Health and P+OPS has been an example of how it can be done. These neighbourhood forums are a chance to share some of the successes but also to hear how we can improve and build on the successes we've already had."

To date, over 30 residents and business owners have participated in the past three sessions, sharing feedback, seeking information, and helping to shape a more responsive shelter model.

Since 2016, 100 More Homes has operated as a community roundtable of local non-profit service providers, municipal partners, health authorities, and community champions who come together to prevent and address chronic homelessness in Penticton. United Way BC is funded by the City of Penticton to work as the coordinator and backbone organization for 100 More Homes.

"We want to put ourselves out of business. We want a community where everyone has a place to call home and a roof over their head and access to recovery and wellbeing" says Desiree Surowski, Executive Director of Penticton + Area Overdose Prevention Society (P+OPS) and Temporary Winter Shelter operator. "We're not there yet but the last five months have given me a lot of hope. I've got to see people find homes, find that light in themselves again and that inspires us to do even better. I really want to hear from neighbours and business owners, we want to make the community a safer place for everyone and so I'd encourage everyone to come out and provide us feedback on how to improve."

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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 30 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.

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About United Way British Columbia

United Way BC helps build healthy, caring, and inclusive communities across our province. We strengthen vital connections that support people in need with a focus on emergency response, kids and youth, seniors, mental health, and food security.

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Interviews are available with Annika Kirk, Strategy Coordinator, 100 More Homes Penticton, United Way British Columbia.

Media contact:

Dara Hill
Marketing & Communications
United Way British Columbia

darah@uwbc.ca

Direct: 236-427-1265