



MEDIA STATEMENT  
June 25, 2025

## **100 More Homes Condemns Violence Against Unhoused Community Members**

**Penticton, B.C.** – 100 More Homes Penticton, a collective dedicated to addressing homelessness, is deeply concerned about increasing episodes of violence and intimidation targeting unhoused residents in Penticton. Multiple reports reflect a growing pattern of violence against the unhoused community seen over the last few years.

Incidents of violence include cold water thrown on people sleeping in sub-zero temperatures, rotten food being thrown at people, threats with makeshift weapons, and people being shot at with frozen paintball pellets. These acts of violence against vulnerable people are unacceptable.

“Everyone deserves to feel safe—regardless of their housing status,” said Desiree Surowski, Co-Chair, 100 More Homes Penticton. “These actions do not represent who we are as a community and threaten the very efforts being made to create safe, long-term solutions for both housed and unhoused neighbours.”

There is an underlying barrier of stigma attached to reporting incidents of violence for the unhoused community, as well as circumstances that create barriers to reporting that would put the victims and witnesses in greater danger. In partnership with local enforcement agencies, 100 More Homes was able to support impacted individuals so they were able to report in person after more attacks occurred this week, which can be confirmed through the RCMP.

While we hope these incidents are not indicative of future acts of violence against unhoused individuals, we want our collective stance to be clear: the safety and dignity of every member of our community should be defended and those with a voice and privilege must take a stand.

As a diverse collective of over 40 organizations, 100 More Homes Penticton is proud of the work that has been completed in collaboration with the community for the successful delivery of the Temporary Winter Shelter. By working together, the 100 More Homes collective has been able to support and divert many people from living unhoused.

100 More Homes remains committed to supporting collaborative, compassionate, and coordinated responses to homelessness. We urge residents to reject hate and instead choose understanding, care, and connection. If you witness a violent crime or know of someone who has witnessed a violent crime, please call 911 or reach out to 100 More Homes for support in reporting the incident after an event via our email address [100morehomes@uwbc.ca](mailto:100morehomes@uwbc.ca).

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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.

[uwbc.ca/100](http://uwbc.ca/100)

### **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.

[uwbc.ca](http://uwbc.ca)

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