

Kelowna Temporary Bridge to Housing



What is bridge to housing?

While it will look like a temporary shelter offering beds, showers and meals, this bridge housing will provide many of the service supports typical of permanent supportive housing. This is an important first step to support people into housing, while providing them with an opportunity to leave the shelter system. This also creates additional capacity in local shelters. The building at 555 Fuller Avenue will be renovated to provide 40 spaces with 24/7 supports, meals, washrooms and amenity space, to be operated by John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay (JHSOK). This bridge housing will close on or before March 31, 2020.

Diverse housing options for Kelowna

The Journey Home Strategy, Kelowna's 5-year plan to address homelessness, reported that there is a need for diverse housing and shelter options to meet the needs of the community. Existing shelter resources are operating at capacity: there are people ready and waiting for new supportive housing that is under construction and opening in early spring 2020. BC Housing is responding to the urgent need in Kelowna by providing bridge housing with 40 short-term supported beds for people experiencing homelessness. Bridge housing provides an immediate and important first step to getting people off the streets and out of local shelters, while creating additional capacity in the shelter system for people living outside.

Emergency Shelter	Bridge to Housing
First come first served 	Residents are selected through an application and assessment process 
Designated beds are provided to shelter guests based on shelter policies 	Beds are for future supportive housing residents only 
24/7 on-site staff 	24/7 on-site staff 
Some meals may be provided 	Three meals provided 

Resident selection process

Residents will be selected through a collaborative and thorough assessment process between BC Housing, JHSOK, and local services providers. The overall selection of residents for 555 Fuller Road will be balanced to ensure success for the residents, staff and community. Staff will be onsite 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure residents are supported and that the property is well maintained.

Community safety

We are committed to building a safe community both inside and outside the housing with:

Experience: JHSKO has over 60 years of experience providing services and housing to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness across the region.

Staffing: Minimum of two experienced and skilled staff will be on-site 24/7 to support residents, manage the building, and be available to respond directly to any related concerns.

Resident Mix: Residents will be selected based on a resident mix that ensures the right level of support to all.

Property Maintenance: Regular cleanups of property and immediate area will ensure cleanliness.

Security Features: Security doors, monitored access to the building, 24 hour staffing.

Agreements: Residents will sign a program agreement, which includes expectations around appropriate and respectful behaviour.

How can I reach out with questions?

Email: communityrelations@bchousing.org
Or contact John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay: info@jhsok.ca



Who would live here?

People who apply to live at 555 Fuller Avenue need to be Kelowna residents who are over the age of 19 and meet the eligibility requirements around income, homelessness, and required housing supports and programming. Every potential resident is considered on an individual basis to ensure that the housing and support services provided by the program match the support services that they need. All residents will sign a program agreement.

Support services

There are a variety of potential support services. Each resident may require different support to work towards living a healthy, stable life:

- 24/7 professional support staff
- Safe, secure place to sleep
- Light breakfast and 2 meals per day
- Social connection
- Connections to local communities
- Referral to health care, mental health and addiction services
- Trauma-informed support and care
- Individualized case planning

Housing First

Harm reduction best practices, based on Interior Health's guidance, would be followed within the housing to prevent overdoses. This means drug-use will only be permitted on site, in a designated area that would be monitored by staff and require safe disposal of needles. It is also important to remember that not all people living here will be using substances. However, if we exclude people with substance use issues, they would remain on the street with deteriorating health.

Find out more about the Journey Home Strategy:
www.journeyhome.ca

