

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

AUGUST 2022

383 ST. LAURENT AVENUE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT ENGAGEMENT

August 15 – 29, 2022

letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent

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1. PURPOSE

BC Housing held a project engagement for the 383 St. Laurent Avenue proposal from August 15 to 29, 2022. We shared a discussion guide about the proposed permanent supportive homes and collected feedback as part of our rezoning application to the City of Quesnel.

This report provides a record of the engagement and a summary of the feedback we received. Engagement materials, including an online feedback form and discussion guide, were available online at letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent.

2. BACKGROUND

BC Housing is proposing new permanent supportive homes in Quesnel. BC Housing has submitted a rezoning application for 383 St. Laurent Avenue, the current site of the Ramada Hotel. If approved, the new permanent supportive homes at 383 St. Laurent Avenue would provide housing for community members experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Most of the future residents would be individuals currently sheltering at Season's House Shelter and the Grace Inn. The 45 new supportive homes may also include the capacity to provide up to 15 shelter spaces and 10 Extreme Weather Response spaces, depending on community need.

Permanent supportive homes are urgently needed in Quesnel. The proposal would allow BC Housing to relocate existing programs and services from the Season's House Shelter and the Grace Inn's temporary housing to a central location. Season's House Shelter would then close, and funding for COVID-19 beds at the Grace Inn would not continue.*

**Please note the discussion guide in Appendix B incorrectly states both locations would close. The Grace Inn is a private hotel and would not close, but the funding for temporary COVID-19 beds would not continue.*

The proposed 383 St. Laurent Avenue location would include the following elements:

- Case management supports to address immediate health, shelter, and financial needs of residents;
- A food program for supportive housing residents (2 meals a day), and emergency shelter guests (3 meals a day);
- Referrals to healthcare services such as mental health and substance use services;
- Referrals to other support services in the community, such as counselling;
- Harm reduction facilitates and services, such as Episodic Overdose Prevention Services and wellness checks;
- Connection with education and employment opportunities;
- Life skill programming including cooking, budgeting, and maintaining a home;
- Individual case planning;
- Cultural programming and activities;
- 24/7 access to staff and support services onsite.

If rezoning is successful, 383 St. Laurent Avenue will undergo building renovations from fall 2022 to spring 2023, preparing for residents. By spring 2023, the building will be ready for occupancy.

How input is being considered

Input received through the project engagement is being used by BC Housing to help understand the community's comments towards the proposed project, and permanent supportive homes in Quesnel as part of our rezoning application to the City of Quesnel.

3. PARTICIPATION

There were a total of 1,207 community interactions during the engagement period.

- 1,161 feedback forms were received through the Let's Talk page
- 5 stakeholder meetings took place involving 6 different organizations and a total of 30 people
- 16 open-ended submissions were received through email and mail

4. ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

From August 15 to 29, 2022 BC Housing sought feedback from the public about the proposed 383 St. Laurent Avenue project. BC Housing hosted two pop-up events on August 23 and 24, 2022 and encouraged members of the public to submit a feedback form.

The public was notified about the engagement opportunities by letter, and print and digital advertisements. All notification material directed people to the project webpage at letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent where they could learn more about the project and provide feedback. BC Housing is carefully considering input provided during the engagement period.

Feedback topics included proposed elements of the permanent supportive homes project in Quesnel. There was also an opportunity to provide additional comments about the project.

5. NOTIFICATION

Notification activities to inform the community about engagement opportunities included:

- **Neighbourhood letter:** 1,272 letters were mailed out to residents and local businesses in the Downtown area of Quesnel on August 17, 2022.
- **Organic media:** Articles covering the engagement appeared in the following publications:
 - My Cariboo Now – digital
 - Quesnel Observer – print and digital
 - CFNR Network – digital
 - Williams Lake Tribune – digital

- **Digital and print advertisement:** Digital ads ran on the Quesnel Observer webpage from August 15 to 31, 2022. The ad appeared in five different ad sizes (300 x 50, 300 x 600, 970 x 90, 300 x 250, 320 x 50) and had 51,388 impressions. One print ad ran in the print edition of the Quesnel Observer during the engagement period on August 17, and August 24.
- **Social Media Campaign:** Social media advertisements were posted on Facebook with 15,187 impressions and 275 engagement points.

*A copy of the notification materials can be found in **Appendix A**.*

6. ENGAGEMENT METHODS

Several methods were used to engage with Quesnel's Downtown community.

DISCUSSION GUIDE AND FEEDBACK FORM

The discussion guide and feedback form was divided into two sections: topics for information and topics for feedback. The first section of the discussion guide provided information on the following:

- Background about 383 St. Laurent Avenue
- Project overview
- Permanent supportive housing
- Services that will be provided
- Site selection

The feedback form included information and questions related to the project proposal. Four quantitative questions and one qualitative question were asked, providing respondents with several opportunities to write comments on other considerations that BC Housing should be aware of when developing the proposal. The form also included an opportunity to provide additional comments.

*A copy of the discussion guide and feedback form can be found in **Appendix B**.*

ONLINE MATERIALS

All engagement materials were available at letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent, including an online feedback form.

Online feedback submissions were encouraged while hardcopy submission was available at the community pop-ups. Additional submissions were also available by email to communityrelations@bchousing.org.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

A total of 30 people were engaged across six different organizations through five stakeholder meetings, hosted by BC Housing during the engagement period.

The meetings provided the opportunity for community groups, immediate neighbours, and other stakeholders to hear first-hand about the vision for 383 St. Laurent Avenue. Participants asked in-depth questions, raised concerns, and explored opportunities for collaboration.

- **August 24, 2022**
 - Meeting with Salvation Army, Covenant of Life Ministry (total of 4 participants)
 - Meeting with Dakelh & Quesnel Community Housing Society (total of 2 participants)
 - Meeting with St. John the Divine Anglican Church (total of 9 participants)
 - Meeting with Quesnel Chamber of Commerce (total of 8 participants)
- **August 25, 2022**
 - Meeting with Quesnel Downtown Association (total of 7 participants)

Please refer to page 11 for a summary of key themes from the stakeholder meetings.

COMMUNITY POP-UPS

BC Housing hosted two community pop-ups on August 23 and 24 at Spirit Square to allow residents to hear more about the proposed project for 383 St. Laurent Avenue, ask questions and share their input.

Please refer to page 12 for a summary of key themes from the community pop-ups.

7. ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Pages 7 to 13 presents summary results from the 1,161 feedback forms and 16 open-ended submissions received.

Please note that not all respondents answered every question. Quantitative results are displayed by number of selections. Some totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding. The total number of mentions for qualitative data may exceed the total number of respondents as participants may have commented on more than one topic. Themes with a single mention have not been included in the qualitative results in this report, but all comments will be reviewed and considered by the project team.

How input is being considered

Input received through the project engagement is being used by BC Housing to help understand the community's feelings towards the proposed project, and permanent supportive homes in Quesnel as part of our rezoning application to the City of Quesnel.

TOPIC 1: PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOMES IN QUESNEL

Participants were provided with information about what permanent supportive homes are, and the strong demand for housing in Quesnel today. Participants were asked two questions about permanent supportive homes in Quesnel and if it would be beneficial to the community.

See page 6 of the discussion guide in Appendix B.

Question 1: Do you agree that there is a need for additional permanent supportive homes in Quesnel today?

Level of agreement	Percentage
Strongly agree	28%
Agree	23%
Neutral	11%
Disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	28%

Question 2: Do you agree that permanent supportive homes in downtown Quesnel will help address the city's homelessness crisis?

Level of agreement	Percentage
Strongly agree	10%
Agree	8%
Neutral	8%
Disagree	19%
Strongly disagree	55%

TOPIC 2: SEASON'S HOUSE SHELTER

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the proposed solution to close the Season's House Shelter.

See page 6 of the discussion guide in Appendix B.

Question 3: Please indicate your level of support for the proposed plan:

Should the rezoning application be approved, shelter guests will be provided permanent supportive homes at 383 St Laurent Avenue. The location will also provide flexibility for shelter and Emergency Weather Response spaces. As a result, the Season's House Shelter will close following the transition.

Level of support	Percentage
Very supportive	12%
Supportive	7%
Neither supportive or unsupportive	4%
Unsupportive	11%
Very unsupportive	66%

TOPIC 3: PROPOSED PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the proposed project to provide up to 45 new supportive homes at 383 St. Laurent Avenue. One open-ended question was asked and one question about proposed features.

See page 7 of the discussion guide in Appendix B.

Question 4: What are important considerations that BC Housing should be aware of in developing this proposal?

Key themes	Number of mentions
Concern about location proximity to downtown core.	297
Suggestions for alternative location farther away from downtown core.	211
Concern about effect on downtown businesses and tourism.	105
Concern that it will lead to increase usage of addictive substances and vandalism.	92
General opposition to supportive housing in Quesnel.	90
Consideration to have harm reduction facilities onsite and more services available.	58
Concern that no change will occur to homelessness issue in Quesnel.	29
Consideration to have security features onsite (fencing, cameras, etc.).	22
Concern with proposed operator's ability to run a new location.	13
Concern with short timeline to provide feedback.	12
Concern with Season's House Shelter closing.	9

Question 5: Which of the following features will help make these proposed supportive homes a success?

Proposed feature	Percentage
24/7 onsite staffing	22%
Healthcare and support services	18%
Opportunities for community participation	12%
Clean team patrols of the surrounding area	21%
Direct contact with the building operator	12%
Harm reduction facilities and services	15%

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

See page 7 of the discussion guide in Appendix B.

Question 6: Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed supportive homes?

Key themes	Number of mentions
General opposition to supportive housing.	316
Suggestion for alternative location farther away from downtown core.	310
General support for proposed project.	42
Consideration to have more services onsite including harm reduction.	40
Consideration for a treatment center in replace of supportive housing.	25
Concern about safety for elderly and children in area.	19
Concern about effect on downtown businesses and tourism.	14
Consideration to have security features onsite (fencing, cameras, etc.).	11
Concern around operator's ability to run a new location.	3

Reminder: themes with a single mention have not been included in the qualitative results in this report, but all comments will be reviewed and considered by the Project Team.

STAKEHOLDER MEETING KEY THEMES

The following themes were raised over the course of the five stakeholder meetings hosted by BC Housing:

Topic	Key themes
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about location proximity to the Kikihnew Apartments.• Concern about a location within the downtown core.• Concern about negative impact to the downtown core businesses.• Suggestion that BC Housing assess alternative housing proposals.• Interest in other properties considered for the proposed project.• Support for BC Housing to identify future housing proposals.• Support for the proposed housing and the benefits it would provide to people experiencing homelessness.
Operator and programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about operator's capacity for additional supportive homes.• Interest in collaborating with BC Housing to address diverse housing needs in Quesnel.• Interest in collaborating with BC Housing to deliver services such as food programs and rent supplements.
Engagement timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about the short timeline for providing feedback.• Concern about the timing of the engagement period.
Homelessness in Quesnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interest in understanding the broader homelessness and drug crises.• Concern about increased use of harmful and addictive substances within the community.• Concern about increased population of people experiencing homelessness in Quesnel.• Concern about increased crime and community safety.

COMMUNITY POP-UP KEY THEMES

The following themes were raised over the course of the two community pop-ups hosted by BC Housing:

Topic	Key themes
Engagement methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appreciation for BC Housing's effort to engage in conversation with the community through such format that was more personal and meaningful than a large open house.• Concern that the proposal will be approved regardless of the community input.• Interest in the rezoning and public hearing process.
Homelessness in Quesnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about existing crime and drug usage in the downtown core.
Permanent supportive housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disagreement with government funds to provide housing and services to those experiencing homelessness.• Concern about safety in existing shelters, permanent supportive housing, and BC Housing-funded programs.
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about the location of the proposed supportive homes.• Concern about the impact on businesses and property values.• Concern about impact on children and elderly who live nearby.• Suggestion that permanent supportive housing and shelter be set up farther away from downtown core.

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS KEY THEMES

The following themes were raised over the course of fifteen emails and one letter directed to BC Housing:

Topic	Key themes
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns about safety and security onsite.• Concerns about elderly and children in the area.• Concerns about site selection process.• Concerns about downtown revitalization plan being compromised.
Operator and programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interest in resources provided and staff onsite.• Concerns about access to services provided onsite.
Engagement timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about the short timeline for providing feedback.• Concern about the timing of the engagement period.• Concern about the timing of the neighbourhood letter.• Concern that it is a 'done deal'.• Disagreement with format of the feedback form.
Homelessness in Quesnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for permanent supportive housing.• Concern about increased addictive substance usage.• Sympathy for those who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.• Understanding there is a lack of services.

APPENDIX A: NOTIFICATION MATERIALS

- Neighbourhood letter
- Organic media coverage
- Social media ads
- Digital ads
- Print ads



Dear Neighbours,

BC Housing is proposing new permanent supportive homes in Quesnel, and we want your feedback. We've submitted a rezoning application for 383 St. Laurent Avenue, currently the Ramada Hotel, and are proposing to renovate to provide up to 45 new supportive homes.

About the proposal

The proposed supportive homes would allow BC Housing to provide permanent housing for Quesnel residents. The proposal would also allow BC Housing to relocate existing programs and services from Season's House and the Grace Inn to a central location. Both shelters would then be closed, and Season's House repurposed in the future for other community needs.

The proposed location will provide up to 45 new supportive homes, and may include the capacity to provide up to 15 shelter spaces and 10 Extreme Weather Response spaces, depending on the need within the community. This project will help us create permanent safe and supportive spaces for future residents to have a place to call home.

Community engagement

We want to hear from you about the proposed supportive homes in Quesnel.

Learn more about the proposal and provide us with feedback by visiting LetsTalkHousingBC.ca/quesnel-st-laurent or scan the QR code.



You can also meet us at an upcoming community pop-up:

- Tuesday, August 23, 1:00PM – 3:00PM at Spirit Square
- Wednesday, August 24, 5:00PM – 7:00PM at Spirit Square

Or email us at communityrelations@bchousing.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

BC Housing

THE WILLIAMS LAKE TRIBUNE



A public hearing to amend zoning to allow the use of supportive housing and emergency shelter at the Ramada Inn will take place Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 6 p.m. at Quesnel City Hall. BC Housing is seeking to move Seasons House off Carson Avenue and expand supportive housing units in the community. (Rebecca Dyok photo — Quesnel Observer)

Public hearing set to amend zoning at Ramada Inn in downtown Quesnel for homeless shelter

Seasons House could be moving to a larger space

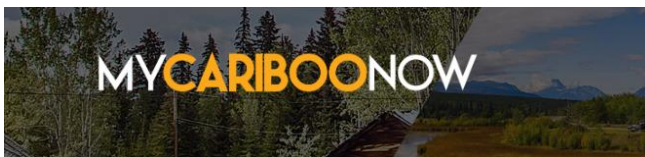
QUESNEL CARIBOO OBSERVER



A public hearing to amend zoning to allow the use of supportive housing and emergency shelter at the Ramada Inn will take place Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 6 p.m. at Quesnel City Hall. BC Housing is seeking to move Seasons House off Carson Avenue and expand supportive housing units in the community. (Rebecca Dyok photo — Quesnel Observer)

Public hearing set to amend zoning at Ramada Inn in downtown Quesnel for homeless shelter

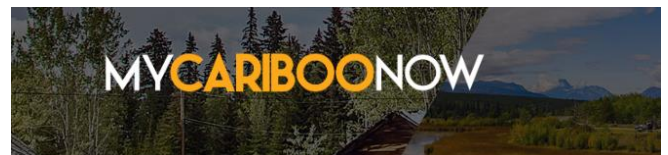
Seasons House could be moving to a larger space



Featured News Quesnel

Quesnel Downtown Association can't support proposed supportive housing project at the Ramada Inn

By George Henderson Friday, Aug. 26th, 2022

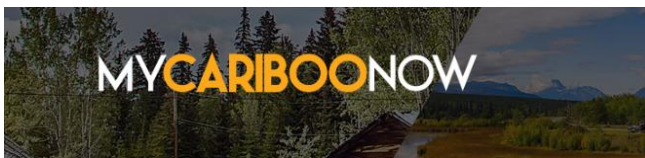


Home > News > Current supportive housing resident endorses new facility being proposed for downtown Quesnel

Featured News Quesnel

Current supportive housing resident endorses new facility being proposed for downtown Quesnel

By George Henderson Thursday, Aug. 25th, 2022

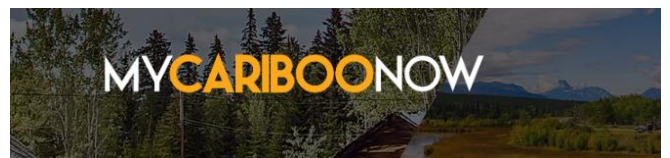


Home > News > Public consultation begins on proposed housing project in downtown Quesnel

Featured News Quesnel

Public consultation begins on proposed housing project in downtown Quesnel

By George Henderson Tuesday, Aug. 23rd, 2022



Home > News > Stage set for public consultation on potential relocation of Quesnel's homeless shelter

Featured News Quesnel

Stage set for public consultation on potential relocation of Quesnel's homeless shelter

By George Henderson Tuesday, Aug. 16th, 2022



Home › News › BC Housing wants to move Quesnel's homeless shelter

Featured News Quesnel

BC Housing wants to move Quesnel's homeless shelter

By George Henderson Tuesday, Aug. 16th, 2022



New BC Housing Proposal Would Bring 45 Permanent Supportive housing Units to Quesnel

Social media ads



BC Housing

August 16 · 🌐

BC Housing has submitted a rezoning application for 383 St. Laurent Avenue in Quesnel. We are seeking the community's input as we explore solutions for the proposed site.


Join us at Spirit Square on August 23rd and/or 24th to meet the project team, learn more, and provide your feedback

- Tuesday, Aug 23 from 1-3pm
- Wednesday, August 24 from 5-7pm

You can also email us at communityrelations@bchousing.org.

Housing affordability is a significant issue across British Columbia, including in Quesnel. With more permanent supportive homes, more Quesnel residents can find safety and stability to improve their quality of life.

Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel



BC Housing and our partners invite you to share your feedback on the proposed permanent supportive homes project at 383 St. Laurent Avenue.

There is a strong demand for housing in Quesnel and we want to be a part of the solution.

Let's Talk about 383 St Laurent Ave. in Quesnel
Proposed housing in Quesnel

[Learn more](#)

Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel

Join us in Spirit Square to ask questions and provide feedback:

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 5:00PM - 7:00PM


<https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent>
communityrelations@bchousing.org

Let's Talk about 383 St Laurent Ave. in Quesnel
Proposed housing in Quesnel

[Learn more](#)

Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel

BC Housing and our partners invite you to share your feedback on the proposed permanent supportive homes project at 383 St. Laurent Avenue.



Let's Talk about 383 St Laurent Ave. in Quesnel
Proposed housing in Quesnel

[Learn more](#)

Digital ads

Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel



383
St. Laurent Ave.

BC Housing and our partners invite you to share your feedback on the proposed permanent supportive homes project at 383 St. Laurent Avenue.



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Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel



383
St. Laurent Ave.

BC Housing and our partners invite you to share your feedback on the proposed permanent supportive homes project at 383 St. Laurent Avenue.

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BC HOUSING

Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel



BC HOUSING

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383
St. Laurent Ave.

Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel

BC Housing and our partners invite you to share your feedback on the proposed permanent supportive homes project at 383 St. Laurent Avenue.



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NEWS

RCMP investigating break-in at Frank's Supermarket

Rebecca DYK
Staff writer

Distraught and angry is how Dave Vatamanack of Frank's Supermarket said he felt after arriving early in the morning to find an outside phone line cut and windows to his business on Quesnel Highway Road \$30,000 of product, possibly smashed.

"It's a kind of numb right now," Vatamanack said Wednesday, Aug. 10, as several RCMP officers investigated the scene. "Hopefully they catch the guys."

Vatamanack said he had received a phone call at around 5:40 a.m. of the alarm going off.

Upon arrival, he found the windows smashed, and outside, he realized someone had cut the telephone lines on the side of the building.

He believes the suspects had hoped to kill the alarm system, which went off anyway.

"We had one minor break-in years ago," Vatamanack

said. "We've had the windows for 26 years, and this is the first major thing that we had anything stolen."

While Vatamanack had yet to complete a full inventory inspection, he said the suspects went inside and stole scopes and binoculars. He guesses he is out \$30,000 of product, possibly more.

Theron Reid, assistant manager at South Quesnel Liquor Store, was stunned to learn of the crime to his neighbour.

"For this to happen here, I find it's unnerving," Reid said.

The Quesnel RCMP said the break and enter occurred Aug. 10 between 5:30 a.m. and 6 a.m. and that the suspects are believed to have departed in a vehicle.

Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious or have any dash-cam footage or video surveillance of the area to contact RCMP or Crime Stoppers.



Dave Vatamanack, owner of Frank's Supermarket, is on scene with police Wednesday to inspect a broken window. (Rebecca Dyk photo — Quesnel Observer)

Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel



BC Housing and our partners invite you to share your feedback on the proposed permanent supportive homes project at 383 St. Laurent Avenue.

Like other parts of BC, there is a strong demand for housing in Quesnel and we want to be a part of the solution.

We encourage you to get involved by visiting the project website or dropping by an upcoming community pop-up:

- Read the online discussion guide
- Complete the online feedback form
- Visit an upcoming community pop-up to ask your questions and provide feedback:

Tuesday, August 23	1:00PM - 3:00PM	Spirit Square
Wednesday, August 24	5:00PM - 7:00PM	Spirit Square

Visit <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent> or email communityrelations@bchousing.org to ask questions and submit input.



NEWS

Incoming and outgoing ambassadors celebrated

Rebecca DYK
Staff writer

Quesnel's 2021 and 2022 ambassadors were recently recognized by city council.

Outgoing ambassadors Jessica Demais, Jessie Johal and Naylene Runge were presented with a rose and plaque on behalf of the city by councillor Laurey-Anne Koudenburg on Aug. 16.

They were introduced at the council meeting by Cara Naalt.

"I was Miss Quesnel a very, very long time ago, and I decided to help out a little bit this year with some of the royalty...and to build up some more members," Naalt said.

The ambassador program, according to Naalt, teaches self-confidence in speaking and pro-



2022 Quesnel ambassadors Naylene Runge (left) and Jessica Demais (right) are introduced to city council on Tuesday, Aug. 16. They both received a rose and are waiting to receive a city star which mayor Bob Simpson said to be an honor. (Rebecca Dyk photo — Quesnel Observer)

met ambassadors in as much as possible.

Mayor Bob Simpson said the in-person

plaque presentation to outgoing ambassadors was the first

since COVID-19.

to incoming ambassadors was the first

since COVID-19.

"It's great to see the girls without masks and to be able to do the presentations directly," Simpson Naalt then introduced.

Demais, Johal and Runge took turns speaking on the value of the Quesnel Ambassador Leadership Program (QALP). One thing Johal enjoyed the most was meeting new people.

"The value of this program is all the mentorship and friendship that comes out of it," Demais said.

Scott asked everyone to and prepare to her daughter, Sierra Cook, who is in the hospital.

"She has been part of this program since she became a candidate in 2014, so I do all of this to help my daughter, and hopefully, she's here with us next year," Scott said.

Let's Talk Supportive Housing in Quesnel



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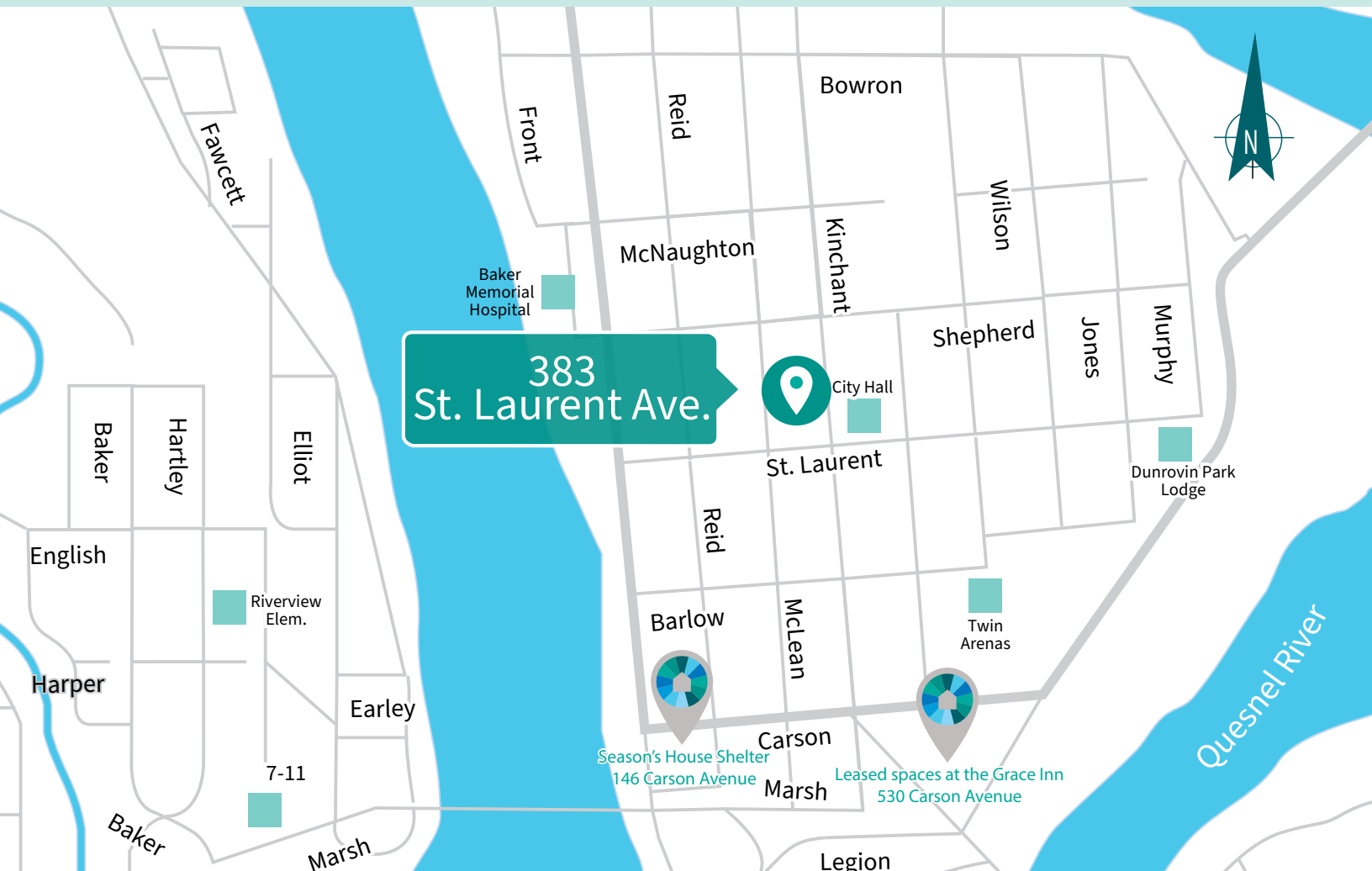


APPENDIX B: DISCUSSION GUIDE AND FEEDBACK FORM

Quesnel Supportive Housing Community Engagement

August 15–29, 2022

Discussion Guide and Feedback Form



We want to hear from you



Email communityrelations@bchousing.org

Visit <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent>

QR code



We want to hear from you about proposed supportive homes in Quesnel.

BC Housing has submitted a rezoning application for **383 St. Laurent Avenue**, currently the Ramada Hotel, in Quesnel. We are seeking your input as we explore solutions for the proposed site.

BC Housing is committed to finding long term solutions to the housing crisis in Northern British Columbia. During this engagement, we are inviting you to learn more about the project and to provide feedback. There will be future opportunities to provide feedback through the City of Quesnel's public hearing process and as the project is further developed and approved.

This discussion guide provides you with information about the purpose of the engagement process and how you can get involved.



Participate in Community Engagement


August 15–29, 2022


Engaging with community members, local and regional governments, Indigenous groups, and stakeholders is a priority for BC Housing as we determine preferred solutions to provide safe and reliable supportive housing in Quesnel.

We want to hear from people who live, work, and play in this area.

There are several ways you can participate:

- ➔ Read this discussion guide and complete the online feedback form at

 <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent>

 Scan the QR code



- ➔ Visit us at one of our booths to meet with project team members and provide us with your feedback

Tuesday,
August 23

1:00PM - 3:00PM

Spirit Square

Wednesday,
August 24

5:00PM – 7:00PM

Spirit Square



You can also email us at communityrelations@bchousing.org if you have any questions about the proposed homes or the engagement process.



Project Overview

Permanent Housing Plan

The Permanent Housing Plan is a province-wide funding response to provide permanent housing for vulnerable persons temporarily housed as part of BC's COVID-19 response – including the expanded capacity at the Season's House Shelter location at 146 Carson Avenue and leased spaces at the Grace Inn at 530 Carson Avenue.

Capacity expansion at both shelter locations was granted at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to help social distance, isolate, and improve safety. However, BC Housing's lease at the Grace Inn and the expanded capacity spaces at Season's House Shelter are due to end next spring.

Under the Permanent Housing Plan, BC Housing is proposing to renovate the existing Ramada Hotel at 383 St. Laurent Ave. to provide up to 45 new supportive homes.

The proposed supportive homes would address the lease expiry and move shelter guests into permanent homes while also creating shelter and Emergency Weather Response spaces to meet future community needs.



Location

The proposed location of the new supportive housing site is 383 St. Laurent Ave., in Downtown Quesnel. The site is currently occupied by the Ramada Hotel, which would be adapted to provide permanent housing options for people currently sheltering at Season's House Shelter and the Grace Inn. The centrally located site would allow BC Housing to close other shelter locations and focus support resources for residents.

383 St. Laurent Ave. is located on the traditional territories of the Lhtako Dene Nation.

Purpose

Permanent supportive homes are urgently needed in Quesnel. The proposed supportive homes at 383 St. Laurent Ave. would move Quesnel residents currently experiencing homelessness into their new permanent supportive homes. Most of the future residents would be people currently sheltering at the Season's House Shelter and the Grace Inn.

The proposed supportive homes would allow BC Housing to provide permanent housing for Quesnel residents who received temporary shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic, as BC Housing's lease of the Grace Inn is scheduled to end next spring. The proposal would also allow BC Housing to relocate existing programs and services from Season's House and the Grace Inn to a central location. Both shelters would then be closed, and Season's House repurposed in the future for other community needs.

The purpose of this community engagement period is to help you better understand this proposed project and provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide feedback.

Expanded housing

The proposed location will provide up to 45 new supportive homes, and may include the capacity to provide up to 15 shelter spaces and 10 Extreme Weather Response spaces, depending on the need within the community.

Extreme Weather Response refers to community-based services to provide temporary emergency shelter spaces during periods of extreme winter weather which threaten the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness.



What is supportive housing?

Supportive housing is an opportunity for people to leave the streets and shelter system for safe and stable housing that will contribute to an improved quality of life. At 383 St. Laurent Ave., residents will have a self-contained studio home with meal or food programs and other supports provided on-site to ensure they can achieve and maintain housing stability.

Supports typically include cultural supports, 24/7 staff presence, wellness checks, life skills training, employment assistance, and connection to other services. All residents sign a program agreement and pay rent.



Project need

Like other parts of BC, there is strong demand for housing in Quesnel. Bridges Supportive Housing helped fill an important gap, but there remains a need for more permanent supportive homes in Quesnel.

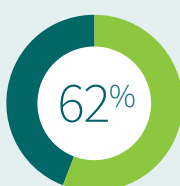
According to the 2020 Point-in-time count conducted in Quesnel:



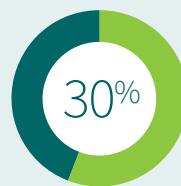
of people experiencing homelessness **have lived in Quesnel for over 10 years**



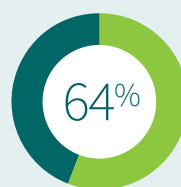
of them have been **homeless for over a year**



experienced homelessness for **the first time as a youth**



had been in **foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth agreement**



of those waiting for housing are **Indigenous, compared to 17% of the general Quesnel population**



This project will help us create permanent safe and supportive spaces for future residents to have a place to call home.



Services that will be provided

We work very hard to ensure that residents have access to the supports they need. Working with the Quesnel Shelter and Support Society, we will replicate the successful community integration model at the Bridges Supportive Housing location.

Residents at the proposed homes would have access to the following:



Case management supports to address their immediate health, shelter, financial needs



A food program for supportive housing residents (2 meals per day), and emergency shelter guests (3 meals per day)



Referrals to healthcare services such as mental health and substance use services



Referrals to other support services in the community, such as counselling



Harm reduction facilities and services, such as Episodic Overdose Prevention Services and wellness checks



Connection with education and employment opportunities



Life skills programming including cooking, budgeting, and maintaining a home



Individual case planning



Cultural programming and activities

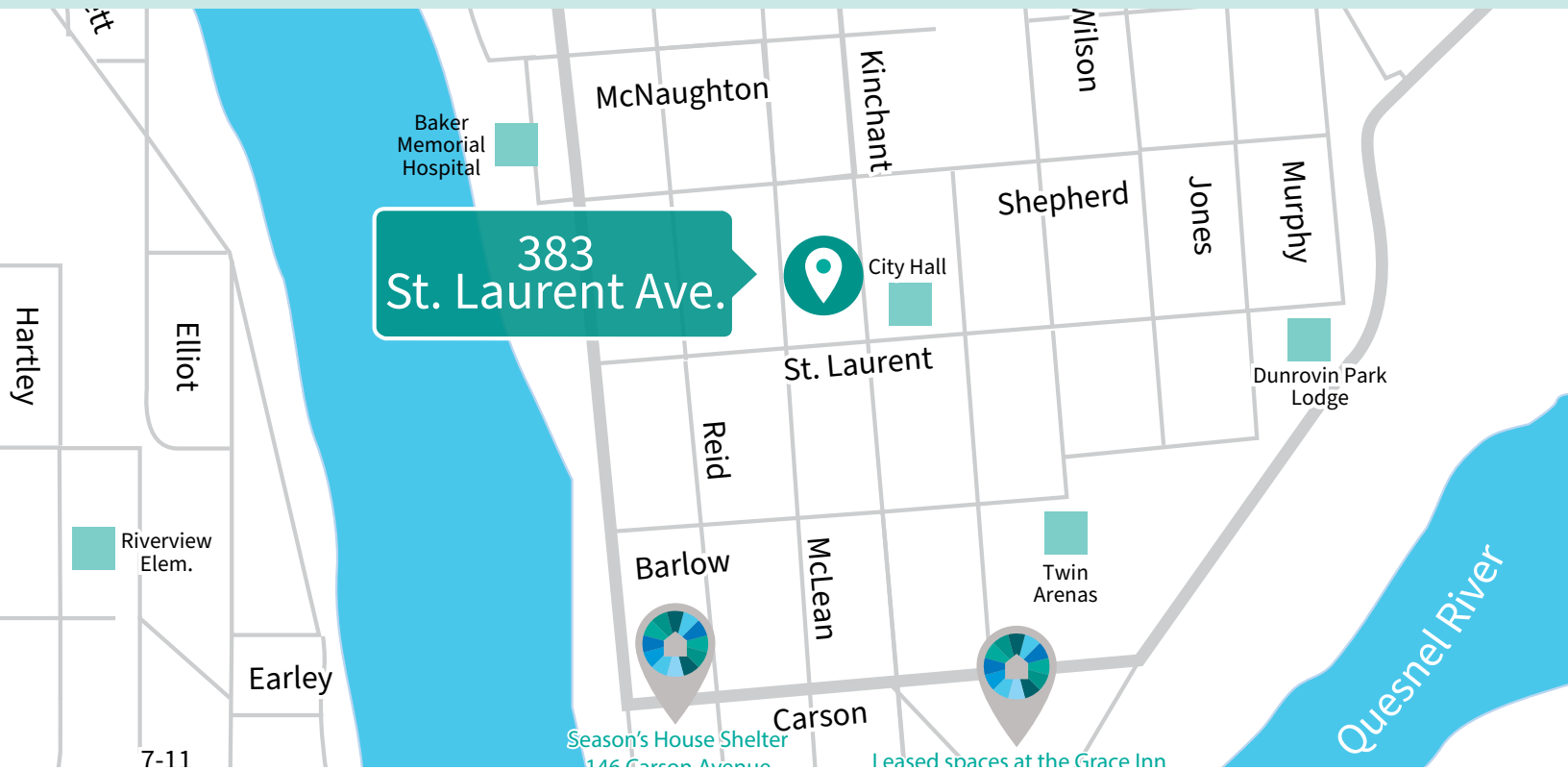


24/7 access to staff and support services onsite

If the proposal is approved, existing programs and services from Season's House and the Grace Inn would be relocated to 383 St. Laurent Ave. Both shelters would then be closed, and Season's House repurposed in the future for other community needs.



Site Selection



While other locations throughout Quesnel were considered, 383 St. Laurent Ave. was the only property that met the needs for supportive housing and flexible shelter spaces. BC Housing had to consider the following needs when assessing potential sites:

- ➔ A property that was available for purchase at fair market price
- ➔ Adequate capacity and layout for Quesnel's existing needs
- ➔ Proximity to community and support services
- ➔ Accessibility and proximity to transportation
- ➔ Achievable renovation timeline

The current Season's House Shelter location at 146 Carson Ave. was not a viable option, and neither were other sites in the area due to cost, safety, and design needs.

383 St. Laurent Ave. was selected as it met the needs listed above. The proposed location also allows us to move people through the housing continuum from temporary shelter housing to permanent supportive housing.

TIMELINE:

Following the conclusion of this community engagement period, a summary report of what we heard will be developed and shared with the City of Quesnel and the community. Input will be considered as we further explore solutions for the proposed site.



Summer 2022

- ➔ Community engagement and City rezoning process



We are here



Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

- ➔ Building renovations (if rezoning is successful)



Spring 2023

- ➔ Occupancy



Feedback Form

We want to hear from you.

We have developed an online feedback form and invite you to provide comments regarding this project.

After reviewing the discussion guide, please visit <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent> or scan the QR code to have your say on the proposed site.



<https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/quesnel-st-laurent>



Scan the QR code



Question 1: Do you agree that there is a need for additional permanent supportive homes in Quesnel today?

☐

1

☐

2

☐

3

☐

4

☐

5

- 1 – Strongly agree
- 2 – Agree
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Disagree
- 5 – Strongly disagree



Question 2: Please indicate your level of support for the proposed plan:
Should the rezoning application be approved, shelter guests will be provided permanent supportive homes at 383 St. Laurent Ave. The location will also provide flexibility for shelter and Emergency Weather Response spaces. As a result, the Season's House Shelter will close following the transition.

☐

1

☐

2

☐

3

☐

4

☐

5

- 1 – Very supportive
- 2 – Supportive
- 3 – Neither supportive nor unsupportive
- 4 – Unsupportive
- 5 – Very unsupportive



Question 3: Do you agree that permanent supportive homes in downtown Quesnel will help address the city's homelessness crisis?

☐

1

☐

2

☐

3

☐

4

☐

5

- 1 – Strongly agree
- 2 – Agree
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Disagree
- 5 – Strongly disagree





Question 4: What are important considerations that BC Housing should be aware of in developing this proposal?



Question 5: Which of the following features will help make these proposed supportive homes a success? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24/7 on-site staffing | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean team patrols of the surrounding area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare and support services | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct contact with the building operator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for community participation | <input type="checkbox"/> Harm reduction facilities and services |



Question 6: Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed supportive homes?

