



383 St. Laurent Avenue

Supportive Housing

BC Housing

September 6, 2022

Purpose



Due to COVID, units added to help social distance, isolate, and improve safety



BC Housing has identified a **potential site** for purchase & renovation



Funding available for Quesnel under the **Permanent Housing Plan (PHP)**



Collaborate to deliver housing and support services



Limited window to access these funds for the benefit of the community

- Funding must be used and building occupied by **March 31, 2023**

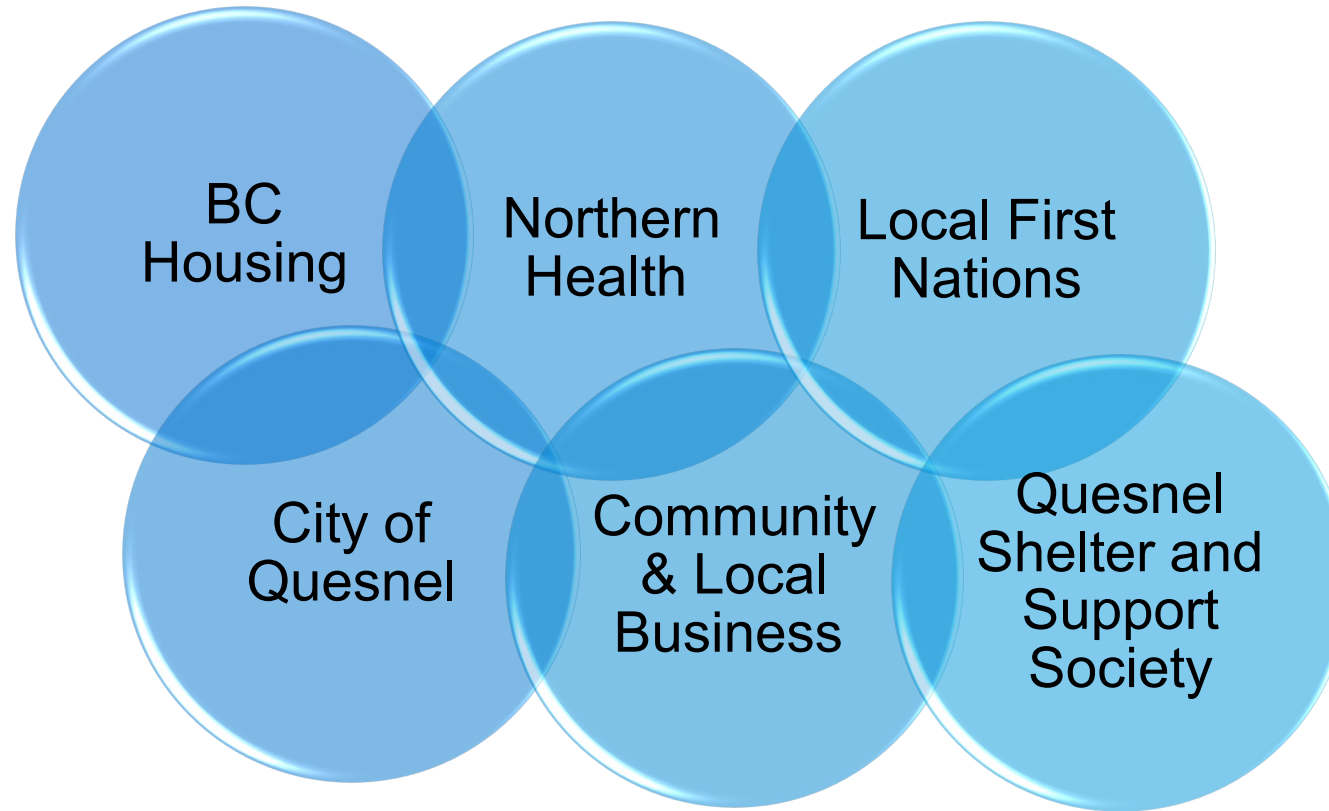


We are seeking support on:

- Site and service delivery
- Rezoning application

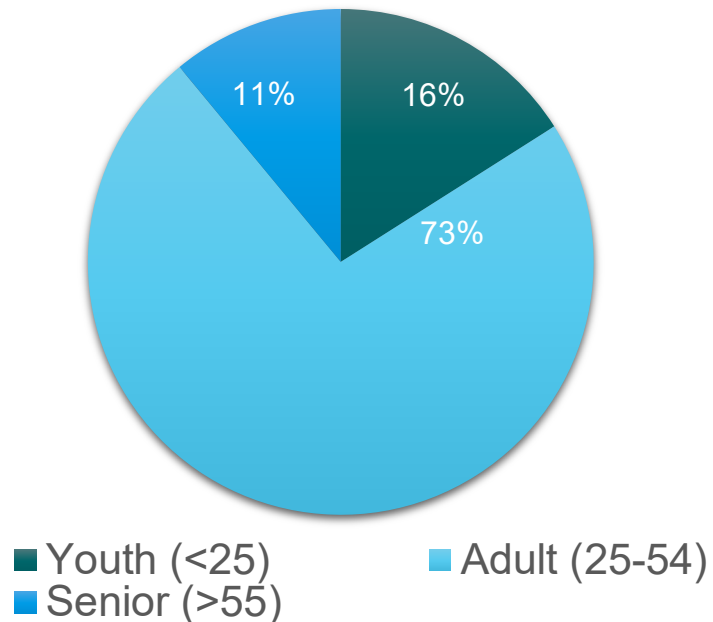
Addressing concerns

Collaborative approach to addressing homelessness



Housing Need in Quesnel

121 people experiencing homelessness*



*2020 Point in Time Count in Quesnel

- 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 and the Grace Inn to a central location.
- This would allow the Season's House to close and be repurposed in the future for other community needs.

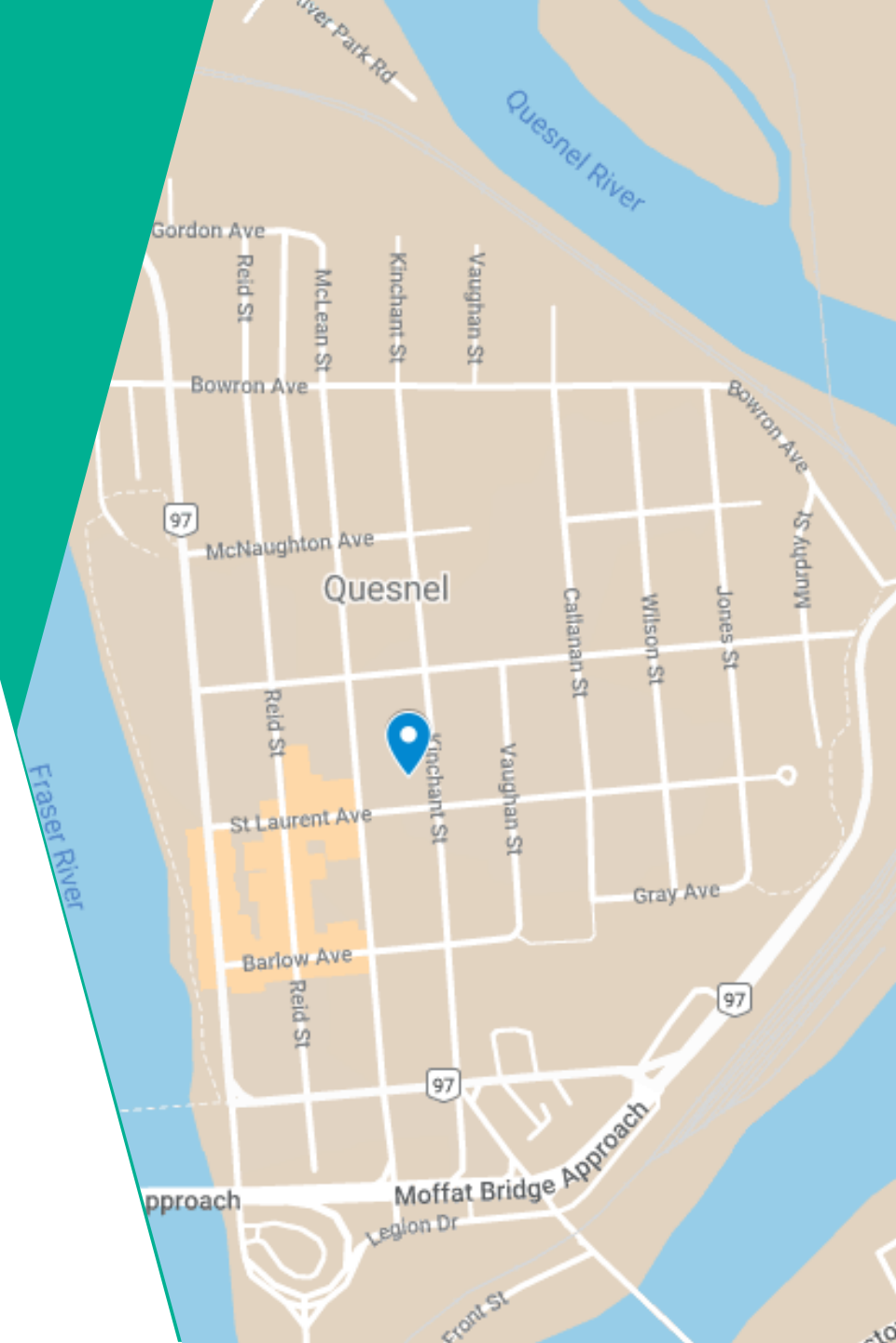
383 St. Laurent Avenue

- 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 the 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.



383 St. Laurent Avenue

- Available for purchase at fair market price
- Achievable rezoning or text amendment
- Adequate capacity and layout
- Proximity to community services
- Accessibility and transportation
- Purchasing timeline and renovation required
 - PHP deadline of March 31, 2023



Engagement Notification

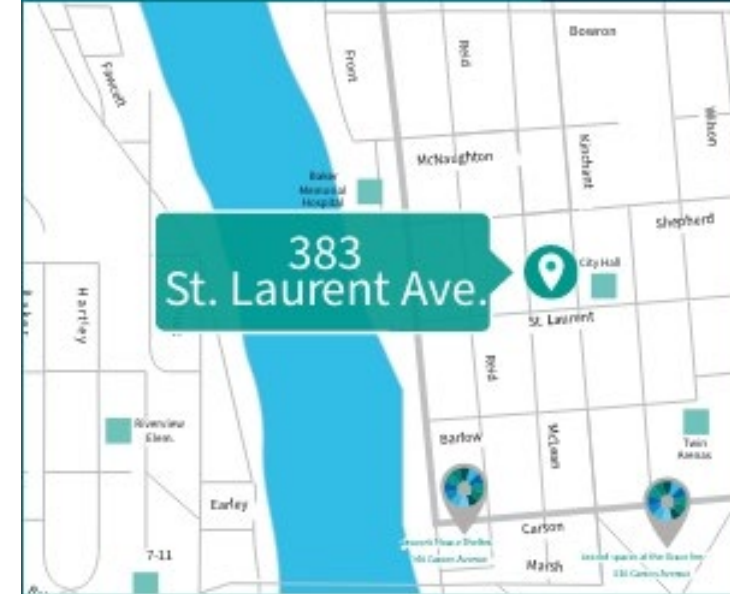
BC Housing sought feedback from the community about the proposed 383 St. Laurent Avenue project from August 15 to 29, 2022.

Notification activities to inform the community about engagement opportunities included:

- **Neighborhood 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 My Cariboo Now, Quesnel Observer, CFNR Network, Williams Lake Tribune.
- **Digital and print advertisements:** Digital ads ran on the Quesnel Observer webpage throughout the engagement period and in print in the Quesnel Observer on August 17th and 24th.



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.



LEARN MORE

Engagement Process

Over 1,200 community interactions to inform the community and receive feedback on the proposed 383 St. Laurent Avenue shelter and supportive housing, including:



*1,161 Completed
**Discussion Guide &
Feedback Forms***



*Two **Community Pop-
Ups** on August 23 and
24 at Spirit Square (~110
conversations)*



*Five **Stakeholder
Meetings** with six
different organizations*

What We Heard

Results from the Discussion Guide & Feedback Form

Do you agree there is a need for additional supportive housing in Quesnel?

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

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

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

Please indicate your level of support for the proposed plan

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

What We Heard



*Proximity to downtown core
& impact on businesses*



*Concerns around mental
health & addictions*



*Concerns around
community safety*

Addressing concerns

BC Housing will work with our partners to ensure that community concerns are addressed

- Many supportive housing residents have an existing connection with the neighbourhood and report experiencing positive interactions with neighbours after they moved in. Often the initial concerns from neighbourhoods about supportive housing decrease over time.
- Once in a supportive housing unit, people who previously experienced homelessness report improvements in access to employment, income, education, mental health supports, and life-skills.
- Many supportive housing sites across the province have been safely operating near facilities with children and seniors for 10+ years with few issues and support from their local community.
- Every dollar invested in supportive housing puts \$4-5 back into the local economy in social and/or economic value.

Addressing concerns

How will the supportive homes be managed?



Addressing concerns

What supports are typically available?



Development Timeline

July – September 2022

Public engagement and rezoning process



Late September 2022

Council decision (3rd vote)



October 2022

BC Housing executive approval
(if rezoning succeeds)



November – January 2023

Building renovation



February/March 2023

Occupancy

March 31, 2023

PHP funding deadline

Next steps

- BC Housing recognizes that it is up to Council whether to approve this proposal.
- If the proposed project is not approved:
 - Season's House Shelter will continue to operate at its current location and funding for the COVID-19 beds at the Grace Inn would not continue.
 - Because of the limited window to access these funds, the funding will be moved to another project in a different community.
- BC Housing will continue to work with the local First Nations and the City of Quesnel and partner organizations on approaches to address homelessness until future funding becomes available.

Resources

- [BC Housing Bridges Supportive Housing Video](#)
- [Community Benefits Report](#)



Questions?

Thank you

We look forward to working with the community to create a path forward.