

Dear community member,

Thanks everyone for your comments on our last newsletter format. I thought it was a great way to get more information to you – on the topics that matter to you. If you would prefer to not get updates via this newsletter, you can always unsubscribe by responding “unsubscribe”. If you would like to leave comments to the newsletter you can just hit reply and I will receive them. As a reminder there are also many ways to get your message to the government on specific topics via EngageBC

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/>. There, you will find a number of important topics where the government wants to hear your voice. This week, I am sharing important news about provincial efforts to address homelessness.

Homelessness affects people and communities across B.C. and there is a serious need to reduce and prevent chronic homelessness. Through Budget 2022, we are investing \$633 million in comprehensive new initiatives to get more people into stable and permanent housing.



Youth in government care are overrepresented in our homeless population. Like all young people, youth in care need supports for a successful transition into adulthood, even after they turn 19. That’s why we are investing \$35 million over three years for new and increased supports for youth in care until the age of 27. This includes a new financial supplement, a no-limit earnings exemption, help with the cost of housing, and other needed education and social supports.

Homelessness is a complex issue and we are addressing multiple aspects of this challenge. We're introducing a change to our shelter allowance to provide a new minimum base rate and will be funding tenant start-up kits to assist people moving from homelessness into more stable housing. We are also implementing \$600-per-month rent supplements with integrated health and social supports that will help more than 3,000 people with low incomes access housing in the private market over the next three years.

In order to better support people with complex health, mental health and substance-use challenges, we're investing \$164 million over three years to expand government's complex-care housing program. This provides housing and more intensive care for those who may need a level of support that goes beyond what the current model of supportive housing can provide.

We know that people need long-term solutions. That's why we are allocating \$264 million over three years for a permanent housing plan to ensure the approximately 3,000 people who were temporarily housed during the COVID-19 pandemic do not return to homelessness.

Since 2017, we've moved thousands of people who would otherwise be homeless into homes with the supports they need. But we know there is much more work to do make up for the years of inaction and underfunding of the old government. Budget 2022's investments will go a long way to combat the growing homelessness we are seeing across B.C.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any provincial issue, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to help you. Our office is staffed from 10am-4pm Monday -Thursday. If you come by simply knock or call 250.703.2410 to grab our attention. If you require an appointment, please email: Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard

If you wish to be unsubscribed to this newsletter – simply respond “UNSUBSCRIBE” to this email.