

# Building Supportive Communities

## part of BC's housing strategy

The Province and the City of Vancouver are proposing to expedite building up to 1,200 new social and supportive housing units on 12 City-owned sites.

This follows Premier Gordon Campbell's October 12<sup>th</sup> announcement of \$10 million of provincial funding for the design and pre-construction approvals required to develop social and supportive housing on municipally-owned sites throughout the province. The City of Vancouver would contribute 12 sites for development, and exempt associated property taxes and development cost levies.

### Why is this initiative moving forward?

This initiative will provide stable housing alternatives for people who are seeking to regain their independence, and are committed to making a difference in their lives.

Located throughout the city, the 12 sites will be used to create safe, secure and supportive housing for individuals who are homeless or at-risk-of-homelessness, and to help them integrate back into the community.

### What is City Council going to consider on December 12<sup>th</sup>?

Council will consider a Memorandum of Understanding with the Province that proposes developing 12 City sites for individuals who are homeless or at-risk-of-homelessness.



The Yukon Housing Centre

### Who would manage the proposed housing developments?

A proposal call is being issued to not-for-profit societies with experience managing and operating social and supportive housing developments. The selection will be made in early 2008.

### What kind of staffing will be provided?

Staffing levels will vary between developments depending on the needs of residents and the services provided. Each resident will be thoroughly assessed to determine their suitability for a specific project and the kind of support they need.

Staff will be on-site 24 hours/7 days a week to manage each building. Specific support staff will work with the residents and, in most cases, be available several hours each day on-site. In some situations staff would visit residents at home as needed, linking them to community services.



*"I received my first piece of mail in over 22 years. I didn't have a permanent address for that long. It was a card offering encouragement and support. I can't explain how much that meant."*

– Dave, Fraser Street



Belkin House – South Vancouver

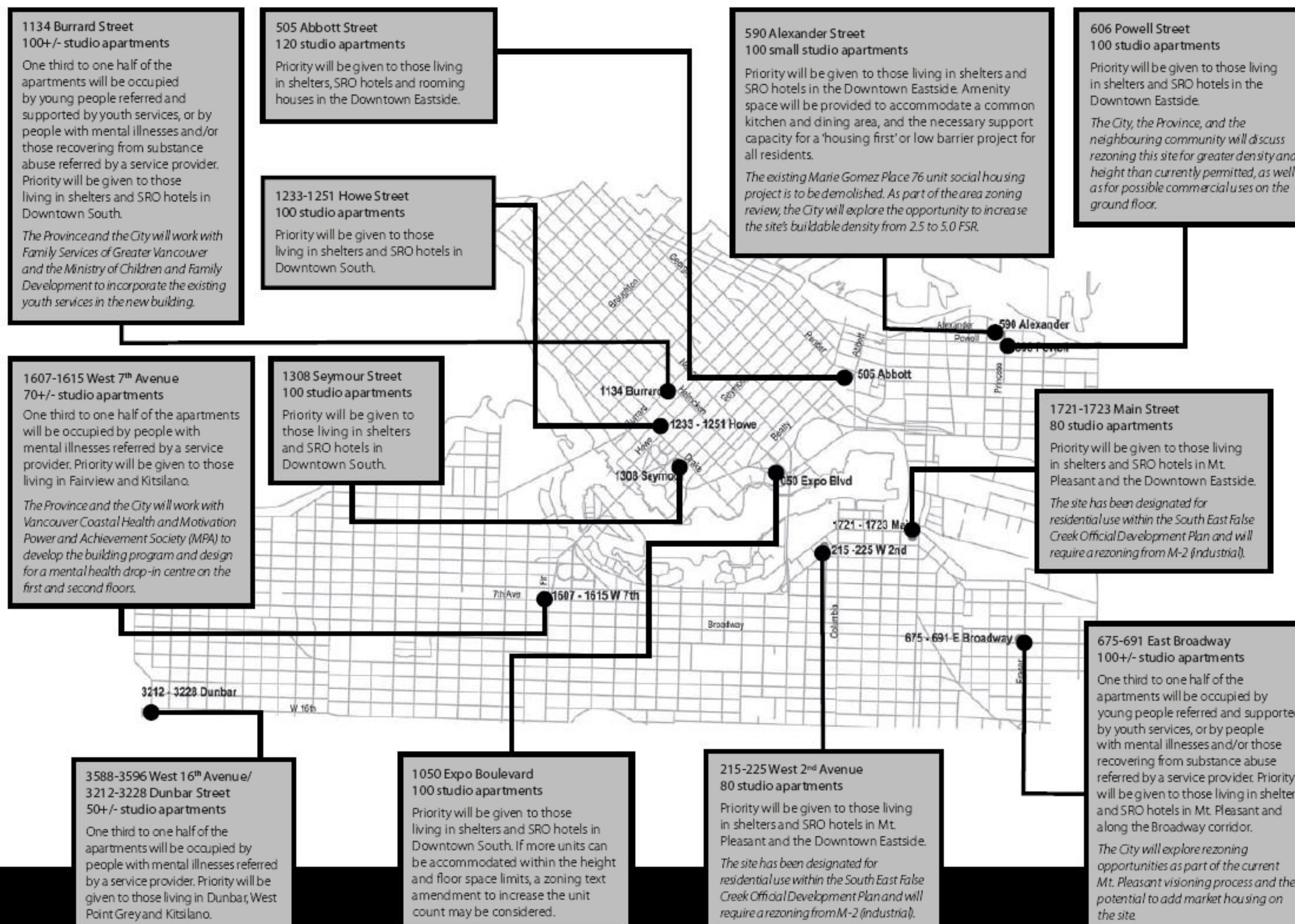
*"My physical health is better, my mental health is better since I moved into Candela Place. I really want to continue with my positive lifestyle, to get Christmas gifts for my grandchildren and to get to know my family better."*

– Bob, Candela Place



## Where are the 12 sites and what is proposed for them?

Located throughout the City of Vancouver, the proposed 12 sites are zoned or designated for apartment buildings. Most of the buildings will have a mix of both social and supportive housing units. One third to one half of the apartments at each location will provide supportive housing for individuals with mental health issues and/or those recovering from substance abuse, referred by a service provider. The other units will help house low-income individuals.



*"I was always scared where I was living before. Now I have a beautiful room... and I feel safe."*

– Li-Shan, Sereena's Place



*"Living here is about learning how to live on your own, to pay bills, to cook. It's also about learning how to live in a community and be a good neighbour."*

– Scot, Fraser Street



## To let City Council know your views...

- Attend and speak at the Special Meeting of Council on December 12<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. Call *Pat Boomhower* at the City Clerk's office at [604-873-7015](tel:604-873-7015) or e-mail at [patricia.boomhower@vancouver.ca](mailto:patricia.boomhower@vancouver.ca) to place your name on the speakers' list.
- Send an e-mail with your comments to [mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)
- Fax your comments to the City Clerk's office at [604-873-7419](tel:604-873-7419).

## Are there any other opportunities to have input?

- Once an application for a Development Permit is submitted for a site, a written notice will be sent to neighbours. An Open House will be held to review the proposed building design and management program. You may also attend and speak at the Development Permit Board meeting or send in written/telephone comments.
- Sites requiring rezoning will go through the rezoning and the development permit application process at the same time. An Open House will be held in addition to a public hearing before Council. Written, e-mail and telephone comments would be accepted.
- The first Open Houses for individual sites will likely occur in Spring 2008.

## To get a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding...

- Go to [www.vancouver.ca/whatsnew](http://www.vancouver.ca/whatsnew) and click on the article, *12 Sites for Social and Supportive Housing in Vancouver*.
- Go to [www.bchousing.org/programs/homelessness/municipal\\_approvals](http://www.bchousing.org/programs/homelessness/municipal_approvals)
- Go to the City Clerk's office at City Hall (453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue) to view a copy of the staff report and the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement anytime after December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## For particular questions...

Call *Peter Greenwell* of the Housing Centre at [604-871-6484](tel:604-871-6484) or e-mail at [peter.greenwell@vancouver.ca](mailto:peter.greenwell@vancouver.ca)



Smith-Yuen Apartments

*"I've been able to build meaningful relationships here. I consider where I live to be my family. This is my community. I feel safe here."*

– Wayne, Candela Place



Fraser Street – Vancouver