

NEWS RELEASE

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TURNING POINT REDUCES SIZE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ADDICTION SERVICES PROJECT BY 20 PER CENT **Society incorporates community input and decreases number of beds**

Richmond, B.C. - Turning Point Recovery Society today announced a 20 per cent reduction in the size of its affordable housing and addiction services project proposed at 8180 Ash Street in Richmond.

“Turning Point is committed to being a good neighbour and we have listened closely to our Neighbourhood Liaison Committee and the community at large,” said Brenda Plant, Executive Director of Turning Point. “We have decided to reduce the number of beds for our residents from 40 to 32, a 20 per cent decrease.”

“Our proposal will build on the success of Turning Point’s residences in Richmond and Vancouver to ensure it works for our neighbours and the Richmond community,” said Plant.

Turning Point is proposing to provide affordable housing at the Ash Street property to assist individuals who are motivated and actively engaged in recovery from their addictions. The proposal offers a unique combination of affordable housing and support recovery services. These services will ensure residents receive the support they need, while improving health outcomes. The proposal consists of:

- One eight-bedroom residence with up to ten beds for men who are actively engaged in recovery;
- One eight-bedroom residence with up to ten beds for women who are actively engaged in recovery;
- One affordable housing residence containing the following:
 - Ten small studio suites (on average approximately 325 to 450 square feet each) for persons engaged and advanced in their recovery who are integrating back into society. Up to four suites will be devoted to serving mothers with infants.
 - One two-bedroom suite will be devoted solely to serving a mother with a young child or children.
 - One, one-bedroom suite will be occupied by a live-in 24/7 on-site manager.

The proposed residences on the Ash Street property will stay within the scale and design of the neighbourhood and will blend with existing homes while greatly improving the site’s current façade. The proposal is aligned with and supports the Richmond Homelessness Needs Assessment and Strategy, the City of Richmond’s Official Community Plan and the 2007 City of Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy.

“Turning Point will give priority placement to Richmond residents, women and women with children or infants to make it easier for them to get the help they need,” continued Plant. “Our affordable housing and addiction services proposal offers a practical solution to an urgent problem that affects us all. It will be a valuable healthcare asset that will meet the needs of our community today and in the future. “

The Society’s goal is to provide safe and supportive housing for vulnerable citizens in Richmond while breaking the cycle of addiction, a root cause of homelessness.

Turning Point will be hosting public open houses as part of its ongoing public consultation process in late November. The open houses will provide members of the community with an opportunity to learn more about the details of its proposal.

“Though our consultation process we will listen to and engage the community and work to eliminate the misconception that our residents pose a potential safety threat, when in fact they do not. Our Odlin Road residence and the experience of other similar service providers show that our proposal will improve the well-being of the community,” added Plant.

About Turning Point

Established in 1982, Turning Point is BC’s leading residential support recovery service provider, providing 31 beds for men and women in three facilities in Vancouver and Richmond. As a licensed, non-profit organization, our mission is to provide a supportive, abstinence-based environment where people may recover from the disease of addiction.

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