

## **Backgrounder**

---

### **Making recovery a reality in Richmond**

There is an urgent need in Richmond for affordable housing and residential recovery services to help the vulnerable in our community who are recovering from addiction. Turning Point, BC's leading provider of residential recovery services, is offering a practical solution to this critical health and social problem that affects us all — our loved ones, co-workers, friends and neighbours.

Turning Point is proposing to develop new affordable housing and residential recovery services at 8180 Ash Street in Richmond to help individuals who are engaged in recovery from addiction but who are at risk of homelessness.

Richmond residents, women and women with children or infants will be given priority placement to make it easier for them to get the help they need, when they need it, within their own community. Our proposal consists of three residences on one half-acre of land that will add 11 new affordable housing units and 20 residential recovery beds to the City of Richmond's housing stock. It includes:

- One apartment-style affordable housing residence:
  - Ten small studio suites (on average approximately 325 to 450 square feet each) for persons engaged and advancing in their recovery who are integrating back into society but are at risk of homelessness. Up to four of these suites will be devoted to serving mothers with infants.
  - A two-bedroom suite will be devoted to serving a mother with a young child or children.
  - A one-bedroom suite will be occupied by a live-in 24/7 on-site manager.
- Two eight-bedroom homes with up to 10 beds each for women and men who are engaged in recovery.

By combining affordable housing and residential recovery services on one site, Turning Point would create a valuable community asset offering services that will improve treatment outcomes and help meet the needs of Richmond's most vulnerable citizens today and well into the future.

### **A design that will fit the Ash Street neighbourhood**

The three residences would be built within the scale and design of the neighbourhood and would blend with existing homes while improving the look and feel of the lot and its vicinity. This density is consistent with the mixed residential density of the neighbourhood and the lot's designation in Richmond's Official Community Plan.

The affordable housing residence would be a 2-storey building with no balconies and would be designed to align with adjacent homes. The two 2-storey homes positioned at the front of the site would feature similar setbacks and proportions to other houses on Ash Street.

An interior courtyard and parking spaces for 9 cars would be situated between the two homes and the affordable housing residence, so they are barely visible from the street.

### **Meeting an urgent need for affordable housing and residential recovery services**

Turning Point's proposal is aligned with and supports the Richmond Homelessness Needs Assessment and Strategy, the City of Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy, the 2007 City of Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy and the City of Richmond's Official Community Plan.

According to Richmond Health Services, there are currently 130 individuals waiting for addictions housing units in the City. The services in Richmond for the treatment of substance abuse are inadequate — there are only nine residential recovery beds in Richmond located at Turning Point on Odlin Road. Richmond agencies regularly refer city residents seeking help to facilities and services in Vancouver or elsewhere.

### **A safe and secure neighbour working on behalf of the community**

Turning Point has proven itself to be a good neighbour to nearby residents in the 25 years it has operated its three recovery homes in residential neighbourhoods in Richmond and Vancouver, with no community safety incidents ever reported.

Turning Point is safe, our residents are safe, and the Ash Street neighbourhood would continue to be safe if our rezoning application is approved. In fact, government and law enforcement agencies see organizations like Turning Point as part of the solution to crime and disorder in our streets.

In Vancouver there are many facilities similar to Turning Point. Police and city records show there is no evidence of increased property crime or drug activity in neighbourhoods around these residences. Nor has the level of personal safety decreased within these neighbourhoods.

### **Delivering benefits and improving the well being of the community**

Turning Point's proposal will contribute to the health, well-being and social sustainability of the City of Richmond. Community benefits of our proposal include:

- Providing safe and supportive housing for vulnerable citizens in our community;
- Increasing access to addictions services in Richmond, particularly for women and women with children;
- Providing housing, enhanced services and a better safety-net for at-risk children and infants;
- Facilitating the entrance of individuals into active recovery from addiction, while helping break the cycle of homelessness in our city;
- Improving health outcomes and fostering healthier individuals and families; and
- Reducing emergency room visits and hospital bed use at Richmond Hospital and reducing long-term health care, law enforcement, justice and social service costs in the community.

### **A caring and compassionate community**

Turning Point's expansion proposal presents an opportunity for Richmond to demonstrate leadership in the delivery of critical housing and addiction services to its vulnerable citizens. Turning Point is seeking the support of Richmond Council and all who care about the health and well-being of our community.

**For more information please contact:**

**Brenda L. Plant, Executive Director: (604) 377-5558**

[www.turningpointrecovery.com](http://www.turningpointrecovery.com)