



INFORMATION BULLETIN

March 26, 2021

City of Grand Forks and BC Housing exploring supportive housing options

GRAND FORKS, B.C. – Grand Forks Council and staff are beginning work with BC Housing on identifying long-term solutions to house people in the community who are experiencing homelessness.

Currently, discussions regarding both the size and location of a supportive housing and emergency shelter solution are underway, with the goal of providing long-term housing for the community's residents who are experiencing or at significant risk of homelessness.

BC Housing has expressed interest in creating permanent supportive housing and an emergency shelter in Grand Forks. A potential site currently under consideration is a city-owned property known as the 'Motocross site,' located on Morrissey Creek Road on the eastern municipal boundary. BC Housing is working with the City of Grand Forks on the suitability and feasibility of this site for future supportive housing and emergency shelter services. Over the coming weeks, site evaluation work will be taking place, including a review of site service and access.

Over this past winter, a temporary shelter has been permitted at Old Hardy View Lodge at 2320 78th Avenue. This shelter ensures people have a safe and warm place to sleep during cold winter months. The temporary shelter is operated by Boundary Family Services, and managed by on-site staff. During the 2020-2021 winter season, the service provided shelter to as many as 15 people each night. BC Housing has submitted a Temporary Use Permit to the City of Grand Forks to request the shelter remain open until March 31, 2022. This timeline would provide an opportunity to review and consider a permanent shelter and supportive housing site. Council will be considering this request at the April 12 Council meeting.

Grand Forks Council, as well as BC Housing, have committed to a transparent and open engagement process with the community. Although Council is cautiously optimistic regarding the viability of this property, no decisions have been made. If the City and BC Housing determine this site will work, there will be an opportunity for residents to learn more and provide feedback. A community survey on shelter and supportive housing options, originally considered for this spring, has been cancelled while details and the viability of the Motocross site are better understood.

People who want to learn more can visit grandforks.ca, and watch for updates on the public process.

General contact information:

info@grandforks.ca or call 250-442-8266

Media contact:

Councillor Everett Baker, Council/BC Housing liaison, ebaker@grandforks.ca

Learn more:

Temporary use permit: <https://www.grandforks.ca/public-notices/notice-of-proposed-temporary-use-permit/>
Grand Forks housing background and information: grandforks.ca