



STATEMENT: Province's new plan for complex care housing good first step for B.C. cities

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BRITISH COLUMBIA – Responding to the Province of BC's announcement of the first four complex care housing sites opening in Vancouver, Surrey and Abbotsford, the B.C. Urban Mayors' Caucus (BCUMC) Co-Chairs, Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran and Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps, released the following statement on behalf of the Caucus's 13 member Mayors:

"We are pleased to see the Province taking these important first steps to implement a new model of complex care housing and supports that our communities and vulnerable residents urgently need and have been calling for. We are glad to see a number of the BCUMC's recommendations reflected in this model.

"The four sites set to open imminently is a good first step. Minister Malcolmson, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction, and the Provincial Government have expressed to the caucus their desire for ongoing support and commitment to this program. While this announcement of 98 new complex care spaces is much welcomed and has been highly anticipated, many of our communities across B.C. are still in critical need to see this model in place.

"We continue to advocate strongly for additional funding to be allocated to expand complex care housing and supports and we hope that the 2022 provincial budget will reflect further commitments.

"Complex care housing will make a real difference in the lives of our most vulnerable residents. It's time to try new approaches to housing and to increase the level of care and support services. We look forward to working with the Province and our health authorities to support them in getting these first four sites, and future sites, open as quickly as possible."

As a unified voice on critical issues facing urban British Columbia communities, the [BC Urban Mayors' Caucus](#) (BCUMC) is a non-partisan group of mayors from Abbotsford, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Prince George, Richmond, Saanich, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria.

Earlier this month, the BCUMC released a video urging the Province to take immediate action on complex care housing, highlighting the strain that leaving those with complex needs out on the streets is having on our communities and on the vulnerable people requiring care.

Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNeHreeChIQ&t=2s>

The BC Urban Mayors' Caucus [*Blueprint for British Columbia's Urban Future*](#), outlines four key priorities for urban communities across the province:

1. Mental Health, Substance Use and Treatment
2. Affordable Housing
3. Public Transit
4. A New Fiscal Framework

To Learn more, visit www.bcurbanmayorscaucus.ca.

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