

Release: Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 1 p.m.

Coast Mental Health opens new supportive homes in Mount Pleasant



Burnham Place, 205 Kingsway, Vancouver, operated by Coast Mental Health

Coast Mental Health (Coast) is excited to formally announce the opening of Burnham Place, located at 205 Kingsway in Vancouver.

This 68-unit housing development provides warm, safe homes to people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness. At this time, the building is fully tenanted.

Coast was selected by BC Housing and the City of Vancouver to operate the new homes in the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. Similar to many of its other sites, Coast will provide homes with an array of supports to people who were previously at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. Priority populations include women, Indigenous peoples, and people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the neighbourhood.

The City of Vancouver purchased 205 Kingsway in April 2021 with funding support from the Federal government's Rapid Housing Initiative. BC Housing provides operating funding for the building.

Coast Mental Health is guided by the psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery model that promotes sustained recovery for people living with mental health challenges. This model emphasizes personal empowerment and choice, with an emphasis on the whole person.

For tenants choosing to live at Burnham Place, they will be provided 24-hours-a-day/ 7-days-a-week supports that include medication administration, recovery planning, life skills training, and education and employment services. Tenants will also have access to a meal program and laundry services at this facility.

Coast's membership-run clubhouse across the street will offer tenants recreational activities, meals and education programming, as well as employment opportunities through two social enterprises: The Street Clean Team and Landscaping With Heart.

The name of the building was selected as a tribute to Darrell Burnham, the Chief Executive Officer for Coast Mental Health, who is recognized for his 35 years of community service. Burnham Place is located across the street from Coast Mental Health's head office.

Funding for the project was provided through the federal government's Rapid Housing Initiative. BC Housing is providing approximately \$2 million in annual operating funding for the building.

With the opening of Burnham Place, Coast now operates 52 facilities across Greater Vancouver, creating 1,453 homes, many with supports for people in need.

Coast Mental Health has been working to support people in the Vancouver community for almost 50 years. Since its inception in 1972, Coast has maintained a leadership role in building vital community-based supports and programming to support people with mental illness and substance use disorders.

For more information on our services and programming, please visit our website at: www.coastmentalhealth.com.

Quotes:

The Honourable Hedy Fry, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre:

"Every Canadian deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Today's announcement marks the grand opening of Burnham Place and this brings us one step closer in meeting the urgent need for housing in Vancouver. This investment made through the Rapid Housing Initiative is providing a chance for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to get back onto their feet and work to bring positive change to the local community. This is our National Housing Strategy in action."

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion:

“Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Through the Rapid Housing Initiative, our government is quickly providing new affordable housing units for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness across Canada, including these 68 new units in Vancouver to keep them safe. This is just one of the many ways our National Housing Strategy continues to ensure no one is left behind.”

Melanie Mark, MLA for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant:

“Now that the doors have opened for Burnham Place, more people who are struggling with mental illness and addiction in the Vancouver-Mount Pleasant neighbourhood are getting the life changing care they require for a new path forward. With 24-7 supports, individuals will have greater opportunities to turn their lives around and recover with dignity.”

Mayor Kennedy Stewart, City of Vancouver:

“We know that mental health supports and round the clock care can not only help people build healthier lives, it also helps build healthier communities. These 68 new homes will help fight homelessness and make our city stronger and healthier moving forward.”

Tracy Rapanos, Director of Community Services, Coast Mental Health:

“Our goal is to provide people who are at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness with permanent housing that includes mental health supports. Supported housing offers people a long-term opportunity to create stability in their lives. When housed permanently, people feel secure and stable, which is vital for their recovery.”

Media Contact:

Susan Hancock

Senior Manager, Communications & Community Development

Coast Mental Health

M: 604-230-2267

Susan.hancock@coastmentalhealth.com



**Question & Answers:
Burnham Place, 205 Kingsway, Vancouver**

Why is the building called Burnham Place?

The building located at 205 Kingsway was recently named Burnham Place as a tribute to Darrell Burnham and their 35 years of community service in mental health services. We believe the name Burnham Place will have significant meaning for many residents of the Mount Pleasant community and beyond, many of whom continue to benefit from Coast Mental Health's supports and programming.

What is Coast Mental Health approach to client care at 205 Kingsway, Vancouver?

Coast Mental Health's business practices are guided by evidenced-based client care in psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery, which also incorporates trauma-informed principles and practices.

Our psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery strategies are designed to assist persons living with mental illness challenges. Our programs are specifically developed to help people strengthen their skills and abilities in all areas of their lives to encourage a sustained recovery: personal, vocational, social residential and educational. Psychosocial rehabilitation emphasizes personal empowerment and choice, with an emphasis on the whole person. Additionally, this approach has a focus on socialization, which may include family members, mental health teams and community supports.

What are the benefits of incorporating specialized mental health supports into housing development projects?

Housing with supports is essential for many people living with mental illness. Coast Mental Health provides services across a wide spectrum of the housing continuum, from connecting people who experience episodic and frequent homelessness, to providing homes to those who have the capacity to live independently. Our goal is to provide as many clients as possible with permanent housing with mental health supports, as this offers people long-term solutions as they integrate into a community. When housed permanently, clients gain the stability they need for their recovery.

We also recognize that there isn't a one-size-fits-all model that will serve everyone's needs. The level of support required is largely determined by the severity of a client's illness. Several of our sites offer 24-hours-a-day/7-days-a-week supports with on-site staff working closely with residents to promote their own recovery. Our goal is to work with individuals to encourage more independent living, which often takes time, and it's only possible when people in need are offered housing with supports.

What type of supports will be provided to tenants?

Burnham Place provides permanent homes to people who are interested in recovery. Staff will be on site 24-hours-a-day/ 7-days-a-week to provide mental health supports and recovery planning, as well as building life skills, such as helping tenants access healthcare services and treatment programs. Tenants also have access to our membership-run clubhouse across the street, which has daily recreational programming and a thriving employment program.

A meal program is also available to tenants through Coast Mental Health's Social Crust Café & Catering social enterprise.

Is there a selection criterion for being housed at 205 Kingsway?

Those who identify as Indigenous will be prioritized for the new homes as they continue to be vastly overrepresented in Vancouver's homeless population.

Individuals will be selected through BC Housing's Housing Registry. For more information, please visit BC Housing's website:

<https://www.bchousing.org/projects-partners/housing-provider-info/housing-registry>

How long will tenants be able to stay at this housing facility?

This facility offers a long-term housing option for people who would otherwise be homeless or at risk of homelessness. Coast Mental Health's vision and mission are to support people wherever they are at in their recovery, with the goal of helping them to live more independently. This requires a continuum of housing models to best meet the needs of each individual as they progress in their recovery.

What are expected from tenants who choose to live at this facility?

People living at Burnham Place pay a monthly rent and are protected under the Rental Tenancy Act. As a member of Coast's community, tenants are also asked to follow a neighbourhood agreement. This agreement sets out Coast Mental Health's expectations for community living for each tenant.

How can neighbourhood residents contact Coast Mental Health if they have any questions about this facility?

Please contact Cynthia Leighton, program manager, with any questions or concerns regarding this facility. Cynthia can be contact by email at Cynthia.leighton@coastmentalhealth.com.

Public inquiries will also be shared with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that has been established for Burnham Place. The purpose of the CAC is to build and maintain positive relationships amongst the community, with the goal of facilitating information sharing and dialogue. CAC members are also responsible for supporting and identifying the resolution of issues that relate to the operations of the building.

What's happening to the temporary modular housing project that was located at 137 East 37th Avenue in the Mount Pleasant community?

After three years, tə cecəw (The Beach) modular housing was closed when the land lease expired for this property. Tenants have now been relocated to other housing options.

How long has Coast Mental Health been providing housing and supports?

Coast Mental Health is one of the largest non-profit housing providers in B.C., with 1,453 homes, many of which provide specialized mental health supports. Since its inception in 1972, Coast Mental Health has been instrumental in building community healthcare services and programming to help build healthy and inclusive communities across Greater Vancouver. With a total of 52 facilities, Coast is a mid-sized non-profit with a workforce of over 800 employees with professional expertise in healthcare services. We offer a continuum of community-base services that includes housing, homeless outreach, as well as employment and education programs. For more information about our services, please visit our website: www.coastmentalhealth.com .