



# BCNPHA

BC Non-Profit Housing Association

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## BCNPHA MEDIA FACT SHEET

### What is BC Non-Profit Housing Association?

BCNPHA is the umbrella association representing the non-profit housing sector throughout B.C. The association is made up of more than 500 non-profit housing societies operating nearly 70,000 units, as well as businesses, individuals, and stakeholders.

### What is the role of BCNPHA?

BC Non-Profit Housing Association provides leadership and support to members in creating and supporting a high standard of affordable housing throughout British Columbia. Our mission is to strengthen B.C.'s non-profit housing sector through advocacy, education and support.

### What does BCNPHA do?

BCNPHA supports the non-profit housing sector through a number of events, initiatives, resources and services, including:

- Education – we offer a wide range of online courses to help those in the sector deepen their professional knowledge, create resilient and inclusive organizations, and maintain their buildings. Courses are targeted to board members and executives, front-line staff and building management personnel.
- Events – BCNPHA provides four Regional, Education, Networking & Tradeshow (RENT) events throughout B.C. each year. These one-day events give non-profit housing providers and other stakeholders an opportunity to learn and connect with others in the sector, close to home.

Together with our partners, the Aboriginal Housing Management Association, and the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC, BCNPHA hosts the annual **Housing Central Conference**, the largest affordable housing conference in Canada. This three-day event draws over 1,700 delegates from throughout B.C. and across the country for more than 100 education sessions and networking opportunities.

Since March 2020, BCNPHA has delivered all education and events online. We anticipate returning to in-person events in 2022, pending provincial health and safety regulations.

- Advocacy – BCNPHA advocates on behalf of the non-profit housing sector through evidence-based research and policy analysis, including BC's Affordable Housing Plan, the national Rental Housing Index and more.

- Resources – these include templates and guides for housing providers, funding opportunities, housing news, and member and supplier directories.
- Services – BCNPHA provides a wide range of services to help housing societies operate more efficiently; our partner programs include capital planning and energy-saving programs, group health and property insurance, asset management services and more.

### Non-profit housing, social housing, co-ops – what’s the difference?

**Non-profit housing** – rental housing that is owned and/or operated by community-based non-profit societies, often with government financial assistance, for households with low to moderate incomes.

There are many types of non-profit housing, depending on the needs of residents:

- **Affordable housing for families and seniors:** the most common form of non-profit housing, this is a housing solution for those who can live independently. Residents pay either rents that are geared to their incomes, or breakeven rents that are not subsidized.
- **Transitional housing:** typically a temporary (up to two years) housing solution for those at transition points in their lives, such as women and children leaving violent relationships or people leaving incarceration.
- **Supportive housing:** a housing solution for those who have experienced or are at high-risk of homelessness who need additional support for mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Supportive housing is provided in both scattered apartments in rental buildings, or dedicated or mixed-income apartment buildings with on-site staff support.
- **Subsidized assisted living:** residences for seniors and people with disabilities who require some support but do not need 24-hour care.

**Co-operative housing** – provides housing for individuals with low to moderate incomes, and includes subsidized market-rate units. Co-ops are governed by a board made up of their own residents.

**Community housing** refers to the non-market housing sector and is made up of non-profit and co-operative housing providers.

### What are the existing rental supports for BC residents?

BC Housing supports low-income residents with subsidies through the: Rental Assistance Program (RAP), for low-income working families; and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER), which provides rent supplements for lower-income seniors renting in the private market.

### Wait, are you the same as and/or affiliated with BC Housing?

No, BC Non-Profit Housing Association is an independent society that receives no government funding. BC Housing is a crown agency that manages a range of subsidized housing programs and provides funding to its primary housing delivery partner, the community housing sector. BCNPHA supports non-profit housing providers, the societies that own and/or operate affordable housing.

**Any questions we haven't answered here?** Please contact Sarah Payne, Communications Manager at 236-521-0617 or [sarah@bcnpha.ca](mailto:sarah@bcnpha.ca).