

2026 Provincial Election Platform Analysis

Housing is once again a defining issue for voters in British Columbia's provincial election, even if it hasn't received as much attention on the campaign trail. The party platforms reflect both the urgency of the housing crisis, as well as different ideas for how to address it. Across the major party platforms, there is broad recognition that the cost and complexity of building housing needs to come down. Proposals include faster approvals, reductions in development costs and charges, regulatory changes, and new approaches to construction. That focus is necessary as the community housing sector faces many of the same cost pressures as the private market. Bringing down [the cost of delivering housing](#) will help public investment go further.

But building more housing is only one part of the solution. Housing Central's priorities for this election are to Build More, Protect More, and Support More. We're looking to government to restore planned investments in non-profit, co-op and Indigenous housing; protect the affordable homes we already have; and invest in the staffing and services that help people remain successfully housed. There are encouraging commitments across the platforms that align with these priorities:

- The **BC Greens** propose restarting the Community Housing Fund and Indigenous Housing Fund and increasing investment in the Rental Protection Fund to protect 2,000 deeply affordable rental homes each year.
- The **BC NDP's** \$390-million Shovel-Ready Affordable Housing commitment responds directly to the need to get non-market housing projects moving, while its commitment to work with the federal government to double the reach of the BC Rental Protection Fund recognizes the importance of preserving existing affordability as well as building new supply.
- The **Conservative Party of BC** emphasizes reducing residential construction taxes and charges, aligning municipal zoning with Official Community Plans, shortening approval timelines and simplifying the Building Code. These proposals respond to barriers to housing construction, although the platform does not identify comparable commitments to new non-profit, co-op or Indigenous housing, or to protecting existing affordable rental housing.
- **CentreBC** proposes doubling BC Builds to 20,000 below-market homes by 2031, reducing development cost charges for rental and below-market housing, and delivering 1,000 new supportive homes with on-site health care.
- **ONE BC's** housing platform is comparatively limited, focusing largely on eliminating the BC Energy Step Code and opposing municipal rent controls, without setting out commitments to build or protect community housing.

Notably, supportive housing received relatively limited direct attention across the platforms, even as parties focused heavily on the issues surrounding it: homelessness, mental health, addictions, and community safety. These issues are deeply interconnected, and supportive housing remains a critical part of the response, particularly for people who need ongoing support to remain housed. Importantly, we know it contributes to [better outcomes](#) for tenants, providers and communities alike.

At the same time, supportive housing cannot be expected to carry the weight of gaps elsewhere in our social safety net. Systems change requires leadership from our elected officials, and the provincial government has the biggest role to play in creating this change.

Taken together, the platforms reinforce an important point: there is no single intervention that will solve B.C.'s housing crisis. We need to increase overall supply while building homes that remain affordable for the long term, protecting the affordable housing we already have, and ensuring people have the supports they need to remain successfully housed.

British Columbians appear ready for that broader approach. [Our polling](#) has found that 93% believe it is important for the provincial government to have a long-term housing strategy across the whole housing system, while 86% recognize that decisions affecting one part of the housing system often have impacts on other parts.

The platforms contain many of the pieces. The opportunity for the next government is to put those pieces together into a long-term, whole-system housing strategy that delivers more affordable housing and recognizes community housing as an essential part of the solution.

Party commitments are organized according to BCNPHA's advocacy categories for ease of comparison; inclusion within a category does not indicate BCNPHA support or endorsement of the commitment. Additional commitments that may affect housing outcomes can be found in the party platforms linked below.

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	BUILD MORE.	PROTECT MORE.	SUPPORT MORE.
Housing Central Recommends	Restore planned investments into non-profit, co-op and Indigenous housing so development of 5,000 shovel-ready affordable homes can get back on track.	Prevent loss of existing affordable housing through co-investing remaining BC Rental Protection Funds with the Canada Rental Protection Fund, implementing a strategy for expiry of operating agreements, and investing in building retrofits.	Invest in staffing and services in supportive housing to maximize housing stability and achieve the best outcomes for tenants, providers, and communities.
Why it Matters?	Building community housing creates homes that remain affordable for the long term. BC needs 12,500 new affordable homes annually for 10 years, including 3,000 affordable homes for Indigenous Peoples.	Preserving existing affordable homes is more cost-effective than replacing them, while ensuring affordable homes remain safe and comfortable. 2,000 affordable rental homes need to be acquired annually to prevent further erosion of affordability. 13,000 affordable homes are at-risk in BC as operating agreements expire within 5 years. \$557M is needed annually to address capital renewal needs of affordable homes in BC.	Housing with supports helps people remain stably housed, reduces pressure on other public services, and contributes to safer, healthier communities. BC needs 5,000 new homes with supports for people at-risk of homelessness. 95% of supportive housing tenants remain stably housing.
What British Columbians Want from Local Governments:	79% say non-profit housing is an essential part of a healthy housing system.	84% are concerned about the loss of affordable homes in their community.	76% believe housing for people leaving homelessness is more successful when adequate funding is provided for on-site staffing and support services.

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 Link to costing plan Link to recent housing announcement Link to all announcements.	• \$390M new “Shovel-Ready Affordable Housing” call for non-market housing projects. • 30-day permits for OCP-compliant builds up to 6 units with \$5M/year in municipal support. • Standardized, province-wide technical code and permit application requirements for small residential builds. • Federal agreement to lower development cost charges up to 50% for multi-unit housing (\$40k per unit). • Increase Speculation and Vacancy tax by one percentage point, from 1% to 2% for domestic speculators and 4% to 5% for foreign speculators. Direct revenue into building affordable homes. • Unsold Condo Tax on completed condos left empty for more than a year (2% tax, +1% each additional year).	• Partner with federal government to double reach of the BC Rental Protection Fund.	• Expand seniors’ care by adding 500 health care workers for home care services and enhancing supports for long-term care residents. • \$90M to establish involuntary care at Oliver’s Okanagan Correctional Centre.
 Link to full platform	• Set provincial approval standards of six months for rezonings and eight weeks for building permits, including fees refunds for missed deadlines. • Double BC Builds to 20,000 below-market homes by 2031. • \$125M annual housing performance fund for cities that meet approval timelines and housing targets. • Cut development cost charges by half on new rental and below-market homes, supported by a \$240M annual municipal growth fund to offset lost revenues. • 5,000 prefabricated and BC-made mass-timber homes a year by 2030.		• Raise renter’s tax credit from \$400 to \$600 a year with credit scaled to income. • 1,000 supportive homes with on-site health care and clear conduct rules. • 1,500 rent supplements for scattered-site homes and 400 complex-care spaces. • Rent supplement for young adults leaving care from two years to age 27. • Publish quarterly dashboard on treatment waits, homelessness, overdose deaths, disorder complaints and housing outcomes. • Contact line for neighbours of supportive housing. • 650 more detox, treatment and recovery beds by 2030.

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	• PST Rebates on building materials for new purpose-built rental buildings. • Build 500 prefabricated long-term care beds in Abbotsford by 2029/30 as the first phase of a broader long-term care expansion. • Merge BC Housing's corporate functions into Ministry. • Audit BC Housing's non-profit funding results.		• Voluntary addiction treatment and counselling in every provincial correctional centre. • Partner with the federal government to develop 300 "Intensive Housing" homes, providing 24/7 care for people with complex health and cognitive needs. • Support municipal rules on public drug use and street disorder, with a police option to steer people into treatment.
 Link to full platform	• Cut residential construction taxes and charges. • Align municipal zoning bylaws with official community plans that carry appropriate density targets. • Shorten approval timelines for communities seeking "family-oriented growth." • Replace Building Step Code with simplified building code. • Expand long-term care and publicly funded home care for seniors with access to accredited care providers. • Portable public funding for long-term care; eligible seniors and families can choose among qualified public, non-profit, and private providers. • Restore seniors' property tax deferral.		• Mandatory treatment for people with addictions, mental health challenges, or acquired brain injury. • Enforce safety and drug rules in hospitals, shelters and supportive housing. • Expand access to mental health and addictions services, including psychiatric care, crisis response, detoxification, treatment, recovery housing, aftercare, and early intervention supports across all regions. • Improve coordination across child and family services, education, housing, and mental health and addiction supports. • Coordinated care, housing supports, and follow-up services for people leaving treatment or correctional facilities. • Increase disability assistance by \$100 monthly, while raising the earnings exemption for single recipients to \$30,000.

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 Link to full platform	- Restart Community Housing Fund and Indigenous Housing Fund (building and protecting 26,000 units per year). - Update housing targets methodology to include assessments of other services. - Adequate and equitable funding for Indigenous-led Complex Care Housing, designed and determined by Indigenous communities. - Promote low-carbon, energy-efficient building design and materials. - Prevent oil and gas hookups in new buildings to support clean energy.	- Increase funding for the Rental Protection Fund to protect 2,000 deeply affordable rental homes each year. - Increase direct supports for renters through Rental Assistance Program and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters programs. - Implement vacancy control. <i>The following commitments are more broadly related to the housing sector:</i> - Expand support for Residential Tenancy Branch to speed up resolution times. - Allow renters to seek an annual rent review through the Residential Tenancy Branch. - Transfer responsibility for collecting and holding rental deposits to the Residential Tenancy Branch. - Prohibit blanket no pets' clauses and develop management guidelines on pets in rentals.	- Trauma-informed housing and rent supplements for Indigenous Peoples, guided by Indigenous communities and organizations. - Increase access to transitional and public housing projects, with wrap-around healthcare and harm reduction principles. - Match investments in bed-based care with community-based outpatient substance use treatment services. - Raise social assistance and disability assistance rates to the market-basket measure of poverty and index to inflation.
 Link to full plan	Eliminate the BC Energy Step Code.	Block municipal rent control programs.	- Eliminate safe supply and drug consumption programs and turn current sites into drug recovery centres. - Involuntary drug rehab and housing.