

# Homelessness and Encampment Response

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# Overview

- Homelessness in B.C.
- Provincial Encampment Response
- Programs and Partnerships
- Questions

# Current State

- Homelessness is impacting every community in B.C.
- In 2022, at least 28,710 people in B.C. experienced homelessness
- In 2023, 40% of people experiencing homelessness identified as ‘unsheltered’
- Impact has increased costs and service expectations for all involved
- Homelessness is a complex issue, and no one ministry or level of government can address this on its own – partnership and collaboration are key

# Provincial Encampment Response

## Programs & Partnerships:

- Encampment Coordination and Response
- HEART and HEARTH
- Encampment Partner Resource (in development)

# Encampment Coordination and Response



**Pre-planning**



**Transition**



**Aftercare**

# HEART & HEARTH

- The HEART and HEARTH programs are part of Belonging in BC, the Province's plan to prevent and reduce homelessness.
- HEART = Homeless Encampment Action Response Team
- HEARTH = Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing
- The two programs work with partners to provide people living outdoors and in encampments with better access to support services, new shelters, and housing options.

# Taking Action - HEARTH

- Belonging in BC will also add nearly 4,000 supportive housing units and 240 complex-care spaces provincewide.
- Since 2017, the Province has nearly 80,000 homes that have been delivered or are underway, including more than 8,800 supportive homes for people experiencing homelessness.



## Planning

Identifying local sites for new temporary or permanent assets

## Taking Action

Delivering housing and shelter options aligned with local needs

## Ensuring Stability

Aligning with other permanent housing and shelter investments

# Taking Action - HEART



# Partner Resource, in development

- Policy and practise guide in development
- Builds on years of engagement as well as prior resources and practices developed
- Primary audience includes local governments, provincial ministries and agencies, Indigenous partners and organizations
- Intended to support communities responding to homeless encampments

# Questions?



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# Kootenay Family Place

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to the Kootenay Family Place. Kootenay Family Place is passionate about serving the needs of children, youth and families throughout the West Kootenay Boundary region through its services of early intervention, childcare, and providing a safe gathering place.