



August 25, 2025

Reference: 187347

Jordan Knox
President

Michael Magnusson
Executive Director

Penticton and Wine Country Chamber of Commerce
Email: jordan.knox@rona.ca; mmagnusson@penticton.org

Dear Jordan Knox and Michael Magnusson:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 30, 2025, calling for provincial investment in the City of Penticton to assist people sheltering outdoors and in encampments to access pathways to shelter and stable housing.

I appreciate your commitment to coordination of local and provincial resources to improve supports available to people experiencing homelessness in the City of Penticton, and identifying key initiatives under the Province's homelessness plan, Belonging in BC, as partnership-based solutions.

The Homeless Encampment Action Response Team (HEART) and Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) initiatives were launched with partnerships in 10 municipalities to open HEARTH sites throughout the Province. Budget 2025 recently announced an additional \$90 million over three years to expand these initiatives.

The Province recognizes that sheltering outdoors is not a suitable form of long-term shelter and can create significant risks for peoples' well-being, as well as the surrounding community. The Ministry continues to work closely with the City of Penticton and snpink'tn (Penticton) Indian Band on long-term solutions for people experiencing homelessness in the community. We have made a clear commitment to work with provincial and local partners to bring forward resources to support people sheltering outdoors.

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In that regard, currently, provincial outreach workers from BC Housing and Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction have been in regular contact with people sheltering near the Highway 97 and Fairview Road intersection in Penticton and have offered person-specific supports. This includes helping people apply for supportive housing, referrals to health services and community resources for food, water, clothing, and crisis support. This is in addition to provision of rent supplements. We will have more to say about additional housing and supports very soon as plans are finalized.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Boyle', with a large, stylized 'C' and a long, sweeping underline.

Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs