

Homelessness Solutions For Parksville, By Parksville

Five Key Reasons to Support Homelessness Initiatives in Parksville

1) Providers have a track record of providing quality services, and are a part of our community

Island Crisis Care Society is an experienced housing operator who are deeply connected to the communities they work in, including Parksville/ The Oceanside Task Force to End Homelessness reports consistently positive outcomes from individuals who are supported in housing in the private market in Parksville through local community agencies.

2) Needles and crime are safety concerns for us too

Homelessness service providers in Parksville, including Orca Place, have programs in place to keep their communities clean. When individuals have a place to live, this reduces the need to use in public spaces.

Safety and security are paramount. While there are sometimes increased calls for police service around new supportive housing buildings, actual property and physical crimes decline, and calls reduce to a level lower than before the building over time².

3) Parksville agencies do not have plans for “Wet Housing”

Orca Place, and other agencies in Parksville, support tenants in their housing with client centered individual service plans, that can include both harm reduction and abstinence-based substance use services. This is proven to be more effective at reducing daily substance use and increasing quality of life than going directly to residential treatment programs. *Residential treatment programs, for those who choose to access them, will still exist.*

4) Orca place is a future home for individuals already living in Parksville and Qualicum Beach

To date, 100% of applications are from individuals who have been living in Parksville and Qualicum Beach for a year or more. This is a requirement for an application to be considered. Applications received outnumber the units available.

5) Providers are here to listen and support a healthy community.

The community will have input into the operation of Orca Place through the Community Advisory Committee, and other providers in Parksville have open door policies and other ways to get involved in being part of the solution to create a healthy, prosperous Oceanside. Landlords who rent to individuals in Parksville programs report constantly positive experiences with their tenants. For more information, contact:

What do healthy communities look like?

- Strong, healthy communities have the below characteristics²:
 1. Inclusive with active community involvement as well as a respect for diversity and a tolerance of differences.
 2. Vibrant with a strong sense of place identity, pride and opportunities for community interaction.
 3. Cohesive with a sense of mutual responsibility and trust.
 4. Safe with positive subjective and objective measures of safety.

Affordable housing helps build strong communities³!

References:

1. http://www.smitherscommunitydirectory.com/files/Smithers_Housing_Task_Force_Report_June2010.pdf
2. De Wolff, A. 2008. We Are Neighbours: The Impact of Supportive Housing on Community, Social, Economic and Attitude Changes. Wellesley Institute.
3. https://victoriahomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/NIMBY-Package-Print_FINAL.pdf