

Looking for Housing?

It is hard to find a home and it may be even harder to find a new home that suits your current needs. The following resources are a good place to start:

1. Accessible Housing BC
 2. Co-operative Housing Federation of BC
 3. BC Housing
 4. Rental Market
-

1. Accessible Housing BC

- Provides a FREE online Housing Board for people looking for a wheelchair accessible housing in BC for rent, sale, and/or trade.
- Visit www.accessiblehousingbc.ca

2. Co-operative Housing Federation of British Columbia

- Co-op housing is similar to any other townhouse or apartment building. Each co-op is governed by a board of directors elected by the co-op members.
- Co-op members work together to keep their housing well-managed and affordable. Most co-ops require a minimum amount of participation from each member, usually 5-10 hours per month, in order to help maintain the building.
- In order to become a co-op member, you must pay the “share purchase”
 - A share purchase is the share you buy to become a member of a co-op.
 - It is similar to a damage deposit in that you receive the money back when you leave the co-op, unless the unit has been damaged.

- If you are accepted as a member of a co-op in BC, have a permanent disability, and demonstrate financial need, then you can apply for a Disability Trust to assist in paying the share purchase.
- The Trust provides an interest-free loan to qualified applicants to cover the cost of the share purchase.
- Applicants can pay back the loan over several years, depending on the amount of the share purchase. For more information about the Disability Trust contract: members@chf.bc.ca or call 604-879-5111
- Please note that the Disability Trust cannot be used to pay for your monthly rent. It is intended only for the share purchase.
- As a co-op member:
 - You have security of tenure. This means, you can live in your home for as long as you wish as long as you follow the rules of the co-op.
 - You have a say in decisions that directly affect your home.
- Every co-ops application process is different. You can access their application form by:
 - Going online,
 - Mail in a self-addressed envelope requesting an application,
 - Physically pick-up the application at the individual co-op.
- Visit www.chf.bc.ca to search for co-ops in your city.

3. BC Housing

- BC Housing develops, manages, and administers a wide range of subsidized housing options
- The BC Housing Registry allows for your application to be considered for available units managed by BC Housing, non-profits, and co-ops.
- Subsidized housing is long-term housing for low income individuals or families, who permanently reside in BC, and have a gross household income below a certain point. For eligibility requirements, visit www.bchousing.org.
- To keep your file active, you must contact BC Housing every 4-6 months.
- If you decline 2 BC Housing accommodation offers, you will need to reapply again. When applying, only list buildings you accept to live in.
- You can complete the BC Housing application:
 - Online,
 - Print the application from the BC Housing website,
 - Visit any BC Housing office in-person,
 - Request BC Housing application form to be mailed to you.
 - Visit www.bchousing.org or call 604-433-2218 for more information.
- BC Housing has a lengthy waitlist. It is recommended that you also apply for non-profit and co-op housing that is *not* part of the Housing Registry. This will increase your chances of being selected for subsidized housing. The list and instructions to apply for non-

profits and co-ops are on:

http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Subsidized_Housing/Listings.

- Sometimes you will find that non-profits and co-ops are not accepting new applications because many people are already on their waitlist. Keep checking back on the non-profits and co-ops because vacancies change day-to-day.

4. Rental Market

- Due to the lengthy waitlist for subsidized and co-op housing you may want to consider exploring the rental housing market, for example, on www.craigslist.com or www.kijiji.ca.
- Use these websites at your own discretion.
- To avoid scams, beware of postings or emails with:
 - Excessive capitalization
 - Misspellings and bad grammar
 - Never wire money
 - Do not put a deposit on a place without being able to view it
 - Do not send personal information, such as your Social Insurance Number or banking information, to an email address
 - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Familiarize yourself with the local housing market on average rent.