



The Getting Home Project

Overcoming Barriers to Housing After Violence

Presenters: Amy S. FitzGerald & Tanyss Knowles, BCSTH



Presentation Objectives:

- **Explore the Getting Home Project**
- **Reflect on the findings related to women and self-identified women experiencing housing barriers**
- **Next steps as BCSTH builds on the project's findings**
- **Calls to Collaborative Action**

Who We Are



The BC Society of Transition Houses is a member-based, provincial umbrella organization. We train, support and advocate for anti-violence workers and programs for women, children and youth experiencing and at risk of violence.

Who We Support

We provides support to Transition, Second and Third Stage Houses, Safe Homes and PEACE programs for Children and Youth and Violence is Preventable programs.

We currently have 123 members and support over **120 housing** and **86 PEACE programs** throughout British Columbia.





The Getting Home Project

- Community & member based project, focusing on reducing barriers to safe, secure, and affordable housing for women fleeing and at risk of violence in BC
- 4 community projects and new Partnerships
- Needs assessment, focus groups, advisory committees, pilots, policy recommendations, reports and knowledge dissemination.



Women & Gender Equality
Canada



Gouvernement
du Canada

Government
of Canada



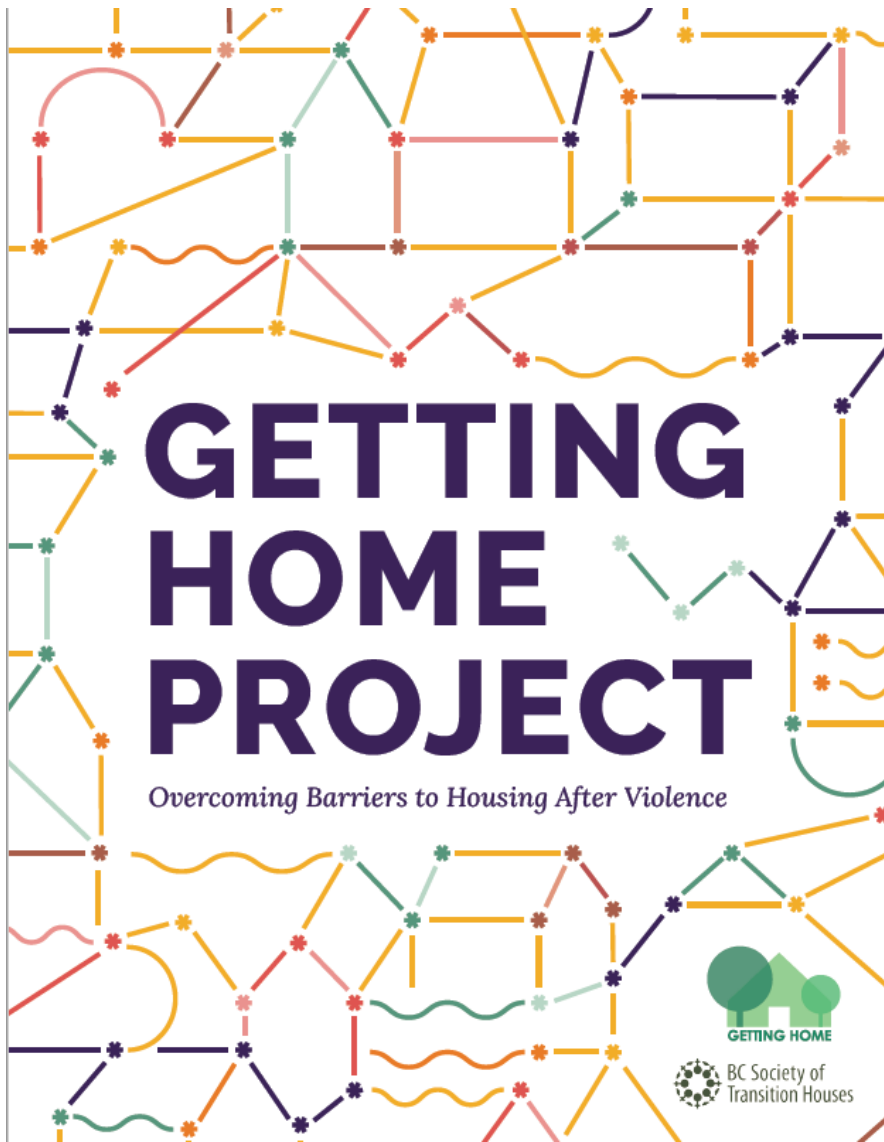
Getting Home Project Partners:

- Project Steering Committee



Vancity Community Foundation





Getting Home Project & Report

<https://bcsth.ca/project/getting-home/>

https://bcsth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Getting-Home-Project-FINAL_web.pdf



Key Findings and Themes

- The relationship between **violence** and **women's homelessness**
- Discussions with service-providers revealed a **sense of hopelessness** in this area.
- Women often have to make the choice between **housing and safety**
- There is a need for both **long-term structural change** as well as the **immediate increase** of accessible housing.
- **Change** is needed **at every level** of policy.

Barriers to Housing for Women Experiencing Violence



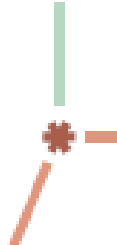
PILOT SITES

Grassroots



**Comox
Valley
Partnership**

- Community partnerships
- Long-term funding for rental supplements
- Advocacy for increased funding to Homeless Prevention Program



Community

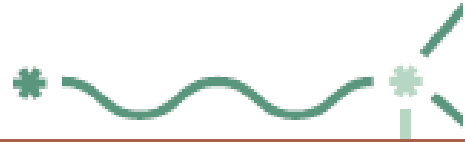


**Vancouver
Co-op
Partnership**

- Cross-sector community partnerships
- Guaranteed affordable housing for women experiencing violence
- Referral committee
- Housed four women and their families



PILOT SITES



Provincial

Rural Housing Advisory Committee

Provincial knowledge sharing

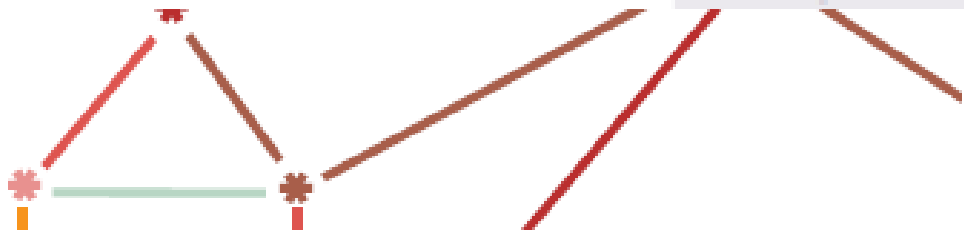
Transportation Project

Research on rural housing needs

Safe Homes Project

Inclusion of rural voices on housing

Long-term advisory committee



PILOT SITES

Federal

**National
Occupancy
Standards
Research**

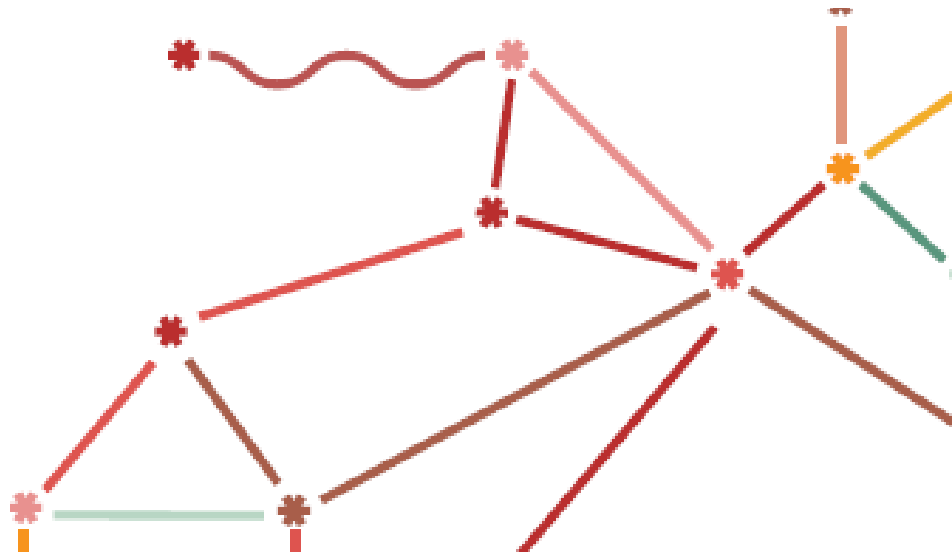
Working group

Policy analysis

Policy brief

Research from design perspective

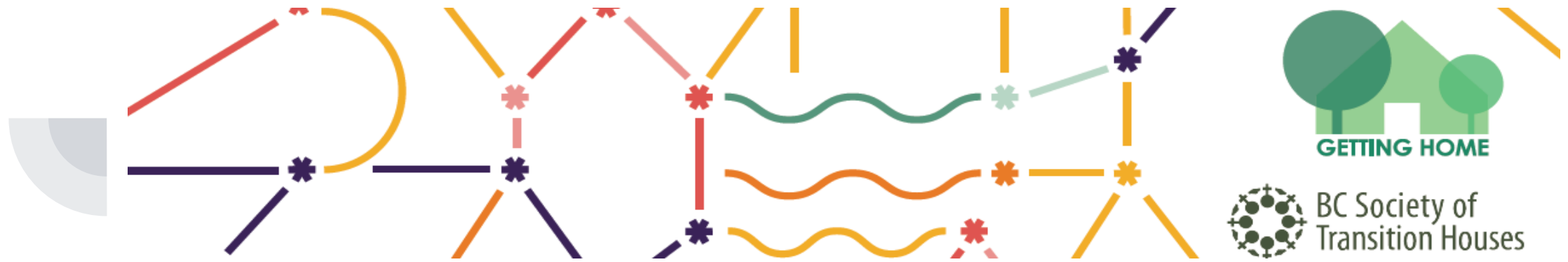
Qualitative study





COVID-19: Key Findings

- Increased **isolation and fear** of contracting COVID-19 put women more at risk of experiencing violence.
- Increased **risk of poverty** due to economic shutdowns and further **limitations on available shelter** and housing options.
- The need to use **alternative service models** by many violence prevention spaces.
- Increased awareness and focus around women fleeing violence in Canada, and the potential creation of a **window for policy change**.



Getting Home Project II.

- **Women Centred Design Project:** Improve housing quality, suitability and options for women experiencing violence.
- **Keys to Home Project:** Build capacity in the anti-violence sector to provide long-term housing options.
- **Transportation Project:** Reducing transportation challenges for women experiencing violence in Northern BC.



Women-Centered Long-Term Housing Design Solutions

There is a severe lack of affordable and appropriate housing in BC for women and their families who have experienced violence. (*Getting Home Project, 2018-2021*)

Key Barriers:

- Affordability of housing
- Poverty and other financial barriers
- Discrimination
- Accessibility and appropriateness of housing and services

Women Centred Housing Design Project

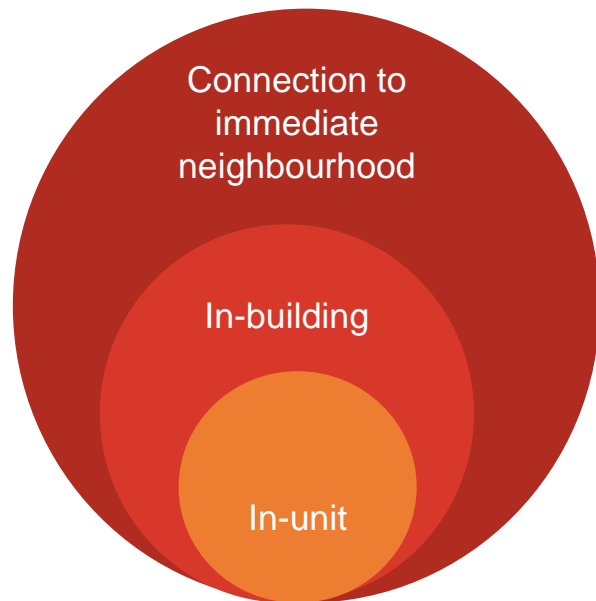
- A one-year project led by the BCSTH (Feb 2022-Mar 2023)
- Explores stable and safe housing design strategies specifically for women with experiences of violence in BC
- Offering a design toolkit (guide) with potential solutions and useful design strategies to the anti-violence and housing sectors
- Enhancing the quality and suitability of new built housing and retrofits while many of the providers of temporary housing and programs for women and their children after violence are expanding their mandate to provide long-term safe housing



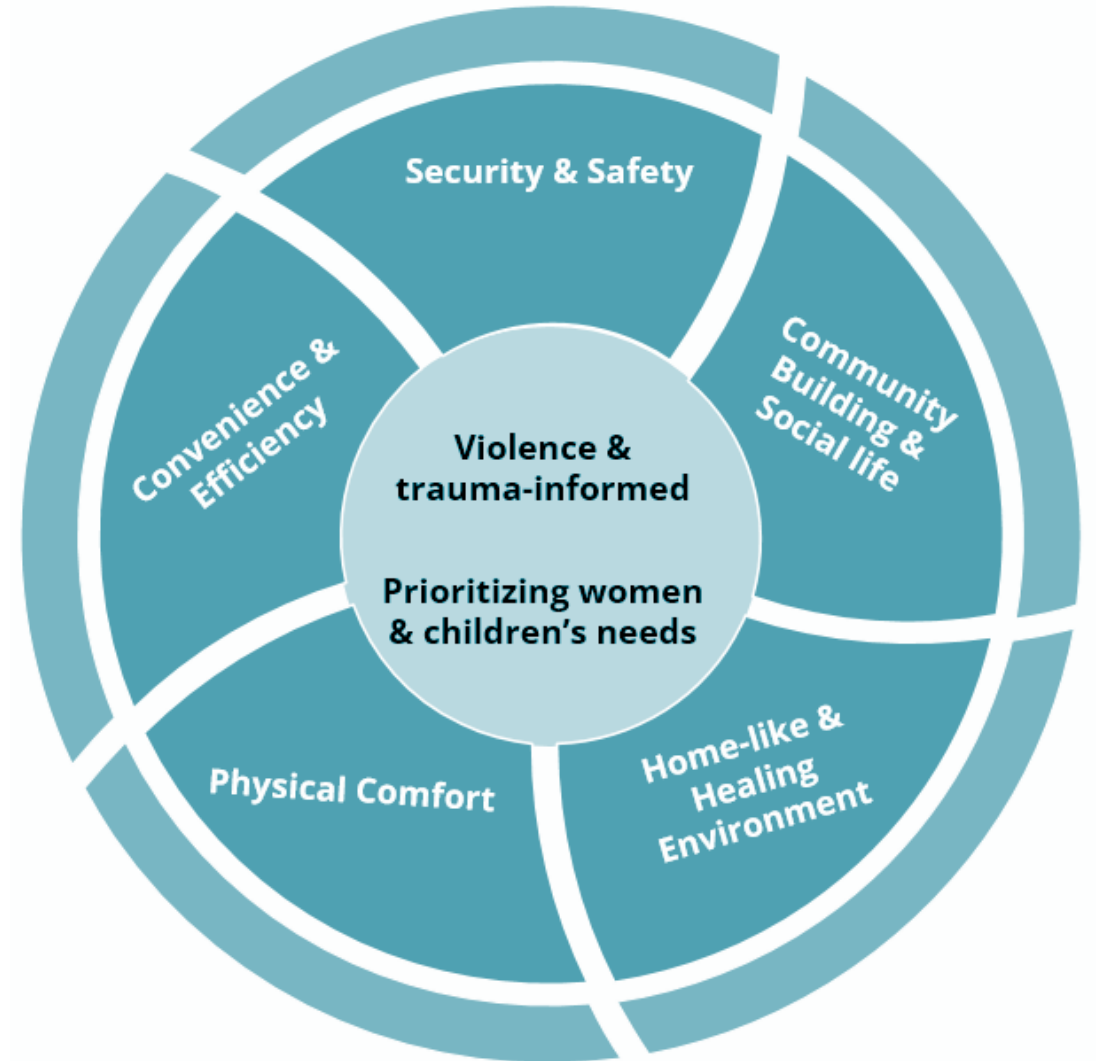
Funders



Principles of Women-Centred Housing in Design



Spatial scale





Key Takeaways

- Involve anti-violence and housing sectors and people with lived experiences in developing housing design guidelines
- Prioritize women as the primary caregivers and their needs in design of housing
- Recognize impacts of violence and trauma on women and children, and design housing spaces to facilitate healing and empowerment



Keys to Home Project

- Project Partners: BC Housing, BCNPHA, CHFBC
- Funder: Community Housing Transformation Fund – Sectoral Impact Grant
- Build capacity within BCSTH's members who are expanding their mandates from temporarily sheltering women and children experiencing violence to providing safe long-term housing options



Major Gaps

01	02	03
Housing Development Education	Diversification of Housing Models	Operational Policies and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban focus• Not specific to housing women with lived-experiences of violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of interest in models beyond tenant/landlord• Limited capacity to provide housing to women with complex care needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender inclusivity, pets, guests, tenant selection• Lack of capacity to create policies and procedures
Systemic Underfunding and Lack of Capacity		



Curriculum

I. Women-Centered Housing

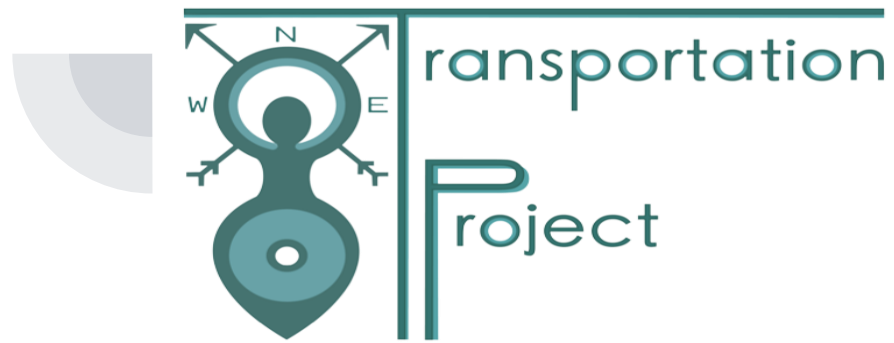
- Explore housing models
- Key aspects of WCH
- Support with project conceptualization

II. Development

- Adapt existing Key aspects of WCH
- Low cost, work at your own place
- Optional group exercises

III. Operation

- Provide best practices for WCH
- Add WCH lens to existing resources
- Provide policy templates in tool-kit



Access to safe and reliable transportation for women experiencing violence in Northern BC

Phase I



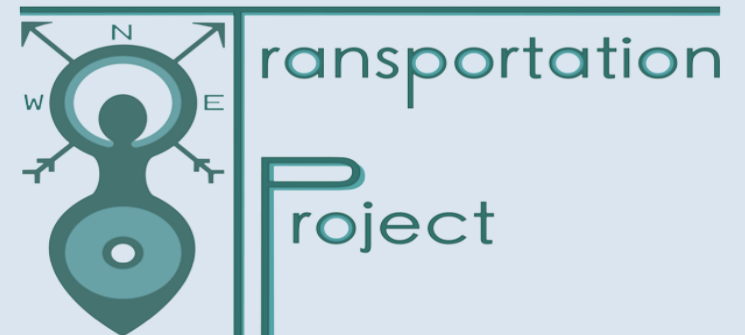
- Examine the transportation needs of women experiencing violence in BC, particularly rural and remote communities in northern BC.
- Identify existing gaps and barriers to safe and reliable transportation for women experiencing or at risk of violence in rural and remote communities in BC.
- Explore solutions that can address transportation challenges.

Phase II

vancouver
foundation

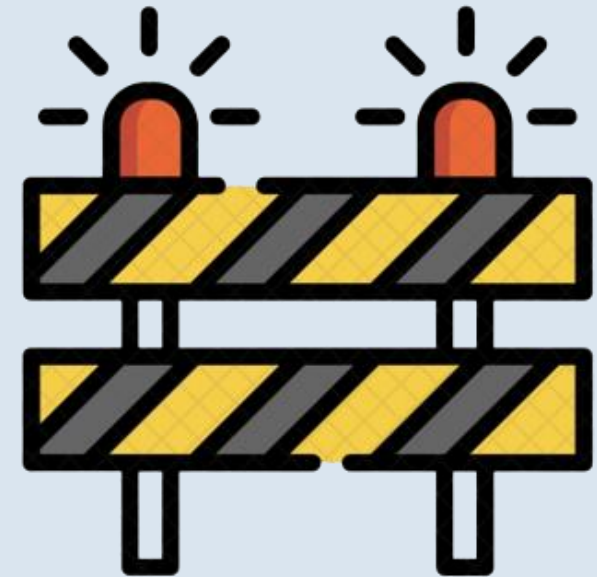
Steering Committee

- BC Association of Friendship Centers
- UNBC's Northern Feminist Institute on Research and Evaluation
- Northern Health Connections Service
- BC Housing



Transportation gaps and barriers in Northern BC

- Limited Transit Routes
- Infrequent Services
- Confidentiality and Anonymity
- Pet Restriction
- Access to Information
- Limited Transportation Options



Practical Solutions

Partnerships

Between BCSTH member programs and transportation service providers

Training & Outreach



Robson Valley, BC TRANSPORTATION FOR



EXPERIENCING
VIOLENCE

Call

ROBSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES
1-844-324-2004

FOR INFORMATION ON BUS TICKETS* AND SUPPORT SERVICES

For more information
point your phone
camera at this QR
code:



BC BUS NORTH

Prince George to Valemount Schedule Route 200: Monday & Friday	
Location	Time
Prince George: Downtown 7 th at Dominion	14:30
McBride Train Station 1 st Ave: ARRIVE	16:50
McBride Train Station 1 st Ave: DEPART	17:00
Tete Jaune: Lodge Campground	17:40
Valemount: Petro Canada	18:00
McBride Train Station 1 st Ave	19:00

Valemount to Prince George Schedule Route 200: Monday & Friday	
Location	Time
McBride Train Station 1 st Ave	06:00
Valemount: Petro Canada	07:00
Tete Jaune: Lodge Campground	07:15
McBride Train Station 1 st Ave: ARRIVE	08:00
McBride Train Station 1 st Ave: DEPART	08:10
Prince George: Downtown 7 th at Dominion	10:30

Prince George to Prince Rupert Schedule Route 100: Thursday and Saturday	
Location	Time
Prince George: Downtown 7 th at Dominion	08:00
Prince George: Pine Centre	08:10
Prince George: Westgate Mall	08:20
Vanderhoof Co-op: Arrive	09:30
Vanderhoof Co-op: Depart	09:40
Fort Fraser: Petro Canada	10:10
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	10:30
Burns Lake: Arrive	11:25
Burns Lake: Depart	11:40
Broman/Duncan: Hwy 16 at Duncan Lk Rd	12:30
Topley: Rest Area	12:45
Houston: A&W	13:05
Tellus: Tyhee Market	13:40
Smithers Mall: Arrive	13:55
Smithers Mall: Depart	14:35
Morrice/Esso Gas Station	15:05
New Hazelton: by Post Office	15:35
Gitsegukla	15:55
Kitswanga Junction: Petro Canada	16:10
Terrace Skeena Mall: Arrive	17:15
Terrace Skeena Mall: Depart	17:35
Port Edward: General Store	19:05
Prince Rupert: Downtown 7 th at 1 st Ave	19:25

Prince Rupert to Prince George Schedule Route 100: Friday and Sunday	
Location	Time
Prince Rupert: Downtown 7 th at 1 st Ave	08:00
Port Edward: General Store	08:20
Terrace Skeena Mall: Arrive	09:50
Terrace Skeena Mall: Depart	10:10
Kitswanga Junction: Petro Canada	11:15
Fort Fraser: Petro Canada	11:30
New Hazelton: by Post Office	11:50
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Smithers Mall: Arrive	12:50
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Prince George: Downtown 7 th at Dominion	19:25

NORTHERN HEALTH CONNECTIONS

Valemount / Prince George Schedule Departs Valemount Tuesday		
Location	Arrive	Depart
Valemount (Clinic)		7:00 am
Tete Jaune (Gas Station)	7:10	
Small River (Rest Area)	7:15	
Dunster (Hall Parking Lot)	7:30	
McBride (Hospital)	7:55	8:00
Crescent Spur (Loss 50)	8:40	
Dome Creek (Diner)	8:55	
Prince George (UHNBC/KL)	10:45	

Route 5A Departs Prince George Tuesday		
Location	Arrive	Depart
Prince George (UHNBC/KL)		16:30
Dome Creek (Diner)	17:20	
Crescent Spur (Loss 50)	17:35	
McBride (Hospital)	18:10	18:15
Dunster (Hall Parking Lot)	18:45	
Small River (Rest Area)	19:00	
Tete Jaune (Gas Station)	19:05	
Valemount (Clinic)	19:15	

Prince Rupert - Prince George Schedule Departs Prince George Sun** / Mon / Wed** / Fri**		
Location	Arrive	Depart
Prince George (UHNBC/KL)		8:00 am
Vanderhoof (Hospital)	9:15	9:20
Fraser Lake (Clinic)	10:05	10:10
Burns Lake (Town Pantry)	11:00	11:05
Topley (Country Grill)	11:35	
Houston (Health Centre)	12:00	12:05
Tellus (Race Trac Gas)	12:35	
Smithers (Hospital)	13:00	14:00
Morrice/Esso (Gas Bar)	14:30	
Hazelton (Hospital)	14:55	15:00
Gitsegukla	15:30	
Kitswanga (Petro)	15:40	
Terrace (Hospital, Park Avenue, Medical Centre)	17:00	17:10
Port Edwards (Rest Stop)	18:45	
Prince Rupert (Hospital)	19:00	

Route 2 Departs Prince Rupert Mon* / Wed* / Thurs / Sat*		
Location	Arrive	Depart
Prince Rupert (Hospital)		8:00 am
Port Edwards (Rest Stop)	8:15	
Terrace (Hospital, Park Avenue, Medical Centre)	9:50	10:00
Kitswanga (Petro)	11:05	
Gitsegukla	11:35	
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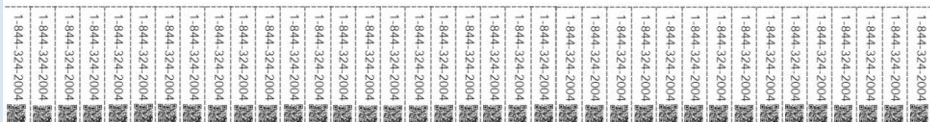
* Bus connects to Vancouver next morning
** Bus connects from Vancouver previous day
- Bus only goes into Hazelton if passengers are booked on the bus

STOPS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



TYPES OF VIOLENCE - PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SEXUAL, FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL

Funding is available for ticket purchase



Smithers, BC TRANSPORTATION FOR



EXPERIENCING
VIOLENCE

Call

PASSAGE TRANSITION HOUSE 24/7
1-250-847-2595

FOR INFORMATION ON BUS TICKETS* AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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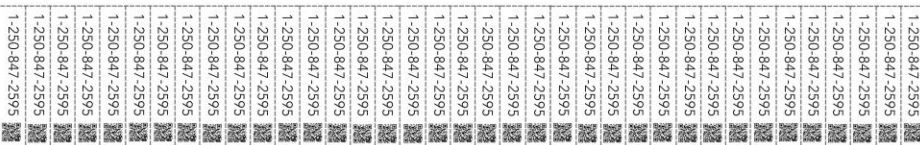
STOPS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE
NORTHERN SOCIETY FOR
DOMESTIC PEACE

For more information
point your phone
camera at this QR
code:



TYPES OF VIOLENCE - PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SEXUAL, FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL

Funding is available for ticket purchase



Actionable Policy Areas and Recommendations

Increase Housing Supply

1. Increase supply of appropriate and affordable housing for women and their children who have experienced violence.

Create Cross-Sector Organization

2. Create cross-sector collaboration to ensure adequate data collection related to women experiencing homelessness and the ability for knowledge sharing.

Increase Funding

3. Establish long-term funding for violence prevention services and housing services.

Reduce Systemic Barriers

4. Reduce social inequities women face that make them at risk for experiencing homelessness by reducing the gender wage gap.

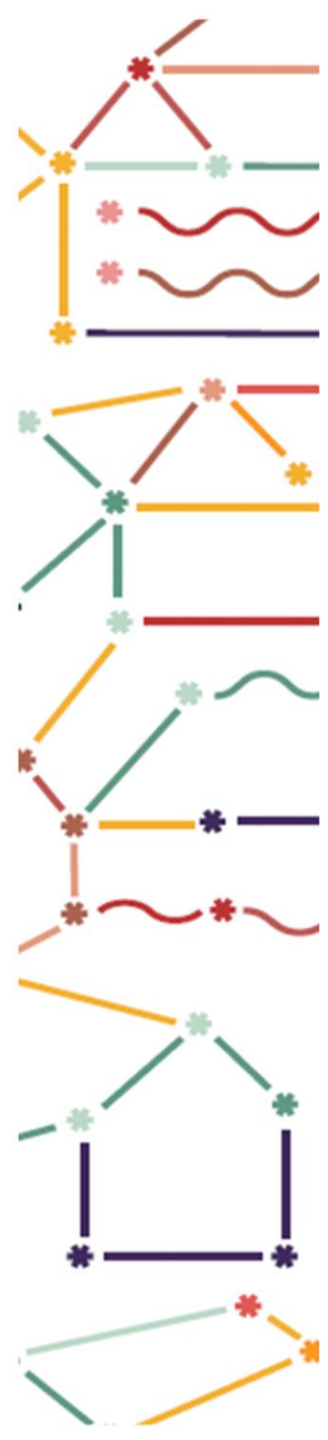
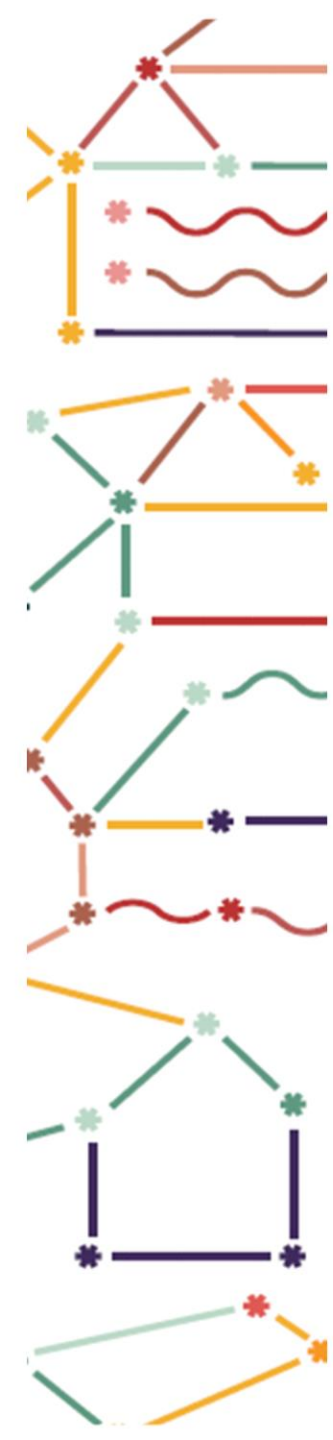
5. Reduce social inequities women face that make them at risk for experiencing homelessness by creating a specific government support program for women experiencing violence.

Increase Inclusion and Accessibility

6. Formally recognize the National Occupancy Standards as merely guidelines and create new standards to guide occupancy rates in social housing and the private rental market.

7. Increase public transportation options in rural and remote areas.

8. Diversify the design of affordable housing to accommodate families and increase accessibility of units.



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<https://bcsth.ca/>

