

Snapshot of the Provincial Health Officer's Special Report:

The Intersection of Health, Housing, and Homelessness

The Role of BC's Public Health Sector

Health and housing are connected; housing that meets our needs helps us stay healthy and contributes to our quality of life in many ways. It also builds strong and supportive societies.

The public health sector is one of several sectors and organizations responding to housing and homelessness challenges in BC. The public health sector is also working to keep people healthy and strengthen society, including in ways related to housing.

The **public health sector** is people and organizations that work to prevent disease and protect and promote health. In BC, it includes public health physicians, medical health officers, public health nurses, outreach workers, epidemiologists, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, and the BC Centre for Disease Control.

When it comes to housing and homelessness, there are nine main ways the public health sector contributes:

1. Upholding Indigenous rights and advancing Truth, Rights, and Reconciliation
2. Advocating for healthy public policy and improved access to services
3. Promoting healthy built environments
4. Preventing homelessness
5. Supporting the needs of people experiencing homelessness
6. Responding to climate-related and emergency impacts on housing and homelessness
7. Generating and disseminating data-driven insights on how housing and homelessness affect health
8. Convening and collaborating with intersectoral partners
9. Advising municipalities on public health issues

Learn more about the connections between public health, housing, and homelessness

in the 2026 Provincial Health Officer's report, *The Intersection of Health, Housing, and Homelessness: Roles of the Public Health Sector in BC*. Find the report at:

www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/reports/special



Office of the
Provincial Health Officer

