

Executive Summary - Mount Tolmie Hospital Temporary Housing

Monday, June 7 - Murray Langdon, Communications Director, BC Housing, called the volunteer board of Mount Tolmie Community Association (MTCA) to inform them that, effective June 14, the former Mt Tolmie Hospital would become temporary housing for 24-43 individuals currently sheltering at Save On Foods Memorial Arena for a one-year term. This was a firm and irreversible decision by the Province of BC. BC Housing issued a news release that afternoon.

Tuesday, June 8 - The MTCA Board immediately convened and secured a virtual meeting with Murray Langdon and Heidi Hartman, Director of Operations. BC Housing to learn some basic facts about the new facility:

- Portland Housing Society will manage the facility, on a 24/7 basis, with 2-3 staff at night and many more during the day, including an on-site nurse, regular visits from a doctor.
- Paladin Security will be hired to provide 24 hour security around the building and in the local area.
- The facility will have one controlled entrance, with only residents and vetted guests allowed access.
- The residents had lived largely without incident at Save On Foods Memorial Arena for some months.

Wednesday, June 9 - MTCA started working with Mayor Fred Haynes to arrange a virtual meeting to include community members and Block Watch, plus representatives of Saanich Police, Fire etc. to explain how they will ensure continued public safety in the area surrounding the new temporary housing facility.

Friday, June 11 – The meeting, which included 100+ attendees, was a productive, informative session. Some important points from the meeting:

- Saanich Protective Services are forging a collaborative relationship with Portland Housing Society.
- Saanich Police have been assured that individuals moving to Mt. Tolmie Temporary Housing have been carefully assessed and are not just off the street.
- Saanich Police will step up local patrols e.g. bike patrols, car patrols, even plain clothes officers if necessary, to help bolster public safety and deter outside criminal elements who may prey on vulnerable facility residents.
- Saanich Police Chief assured meeting attendees that, in the event of higher crime in the area, officers will have overtime to increase patrols.
- Saanich will log all emergency and reports of other criminal activity in the local area to assess if crime rates increase following the opening of this temporary housing facility.

- Saanich Police encourage citizens to contact them if criminal activity is observed, but also recommend joining Block Watch as an extra level of security. There will be a virtual Block Watch information session on Wednesday, June 16. To join Block Watch or to attend the information session please contact blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca

Next Steps - Once the Mt Tolmie temporary housing facility opens Mayor Haynes has agreed to host follow up meetings on **Friday June 18 and Friday, June 25** for further information sharing and community input.

MTCA will continue to liaise with Saanich, BC Housing, PHS etc. and publicize meeting details and any other relevant information and updates. Please check our [Face Book page](#).

Other Resources:

BC Housing - <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/saanich-mount-tolmie-hospital>

Heidi Hartman, Director of Operations, BC Housing - hhartman@bchousing.org

Portland Housing Society - Info@phs.ca or 604-683-0073

Fred Haynes, Mayor of Saanich – mayor@saanich.ca

Mayor's office to register for meetings rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca